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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19007

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1995 • TAMMUZ 2, 5755 • SAFAR 2, 1416

NIS 5.80 (EILAT NIS 4.95)

'Fire whoever leaked IDF secrets'

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

WHOEVER leaked IDF documents on Golan Heights security matters should be removed immediately from service, a senior source in the Israeli delegation to the meetings with Syria said here yesterday.

"I'm sorry that in the military documents are getting out," the source said. "It's not to our merit in the military and doesn't do any good. I can certainly tell you it does damage, that if people can't say and write freely what they think, and if in discussions people can't talk freely, then we'll be making mistakes."

"I think someone who releases documents without the military's permission has no place in the military," the source said. "He should ask to leave, in my opinion, quickly."

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who is here heading the security-related talks with Syria, spoke on the matter with his deputy, Gen. Matan Vilnai, who is investigating the matter, the source told reporters.

While refusing to elaborate on the document's contents, it "didn't create a direction" for (Continued on Page 22)

Orient House faces rezoning

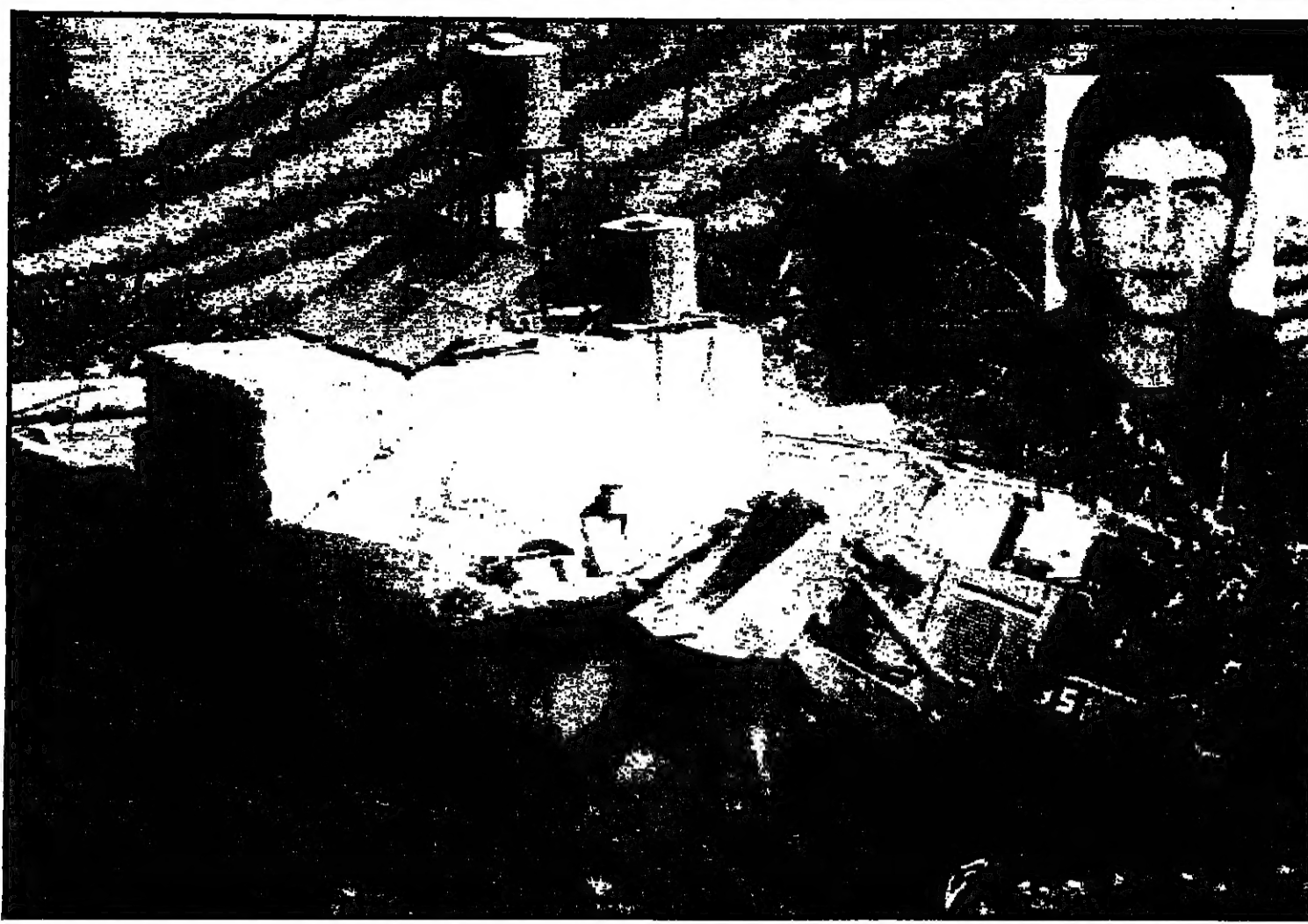
BILL HUTMAN

PLO officials were given two weeks to request a rezoning of Orient House or face legal action, according to a decision passed last night by the Jerusalem City Council.

Mayor Ehud Olmert had threatened to shut down Orient House, but the decision taken indicates the move would not be as easy as first represented by him.

The five-point decision empowers city building inspectors to inform Orient House it is in violation of the building code for running an office in a building zoned to be a hotel.

City officials said heavy fines would be imposed immediately on Orient House, but the closure or the eviction of the PLO office remains a long way off - if it will ever occur, the officials conceded.



An IDF bulldozer yesterday destroys a house in Ras Jura, near Hebron, where slain Hamas terrorist Taher Kapisha (inset) hid before the shootout with troops. (Khaled Zighari; inset, Brian Headler)

IDF slays top Hamas killer

JON IMMANUEL

A SPECIAL unit of the Border Police yesterday ambushed and shot dead Taher Kapisha, the leader and last known member of a Hebron Hamas cell which murdered at least six Israelis in drive-by shootings over the past year.

Intelligence information brought troops before dawn to a house two kilometers from Kiryat Arba in Ras Jura, also known as Glass Square, at the northern entrance to Hebron.

Kapisha, 24, refused to surrender, firing at the troops and shooting a border policeman, Sgt. Doron Ben-Zikri, 23, in the head. His condition was later described by doctors as "very serious to critical."

Kapisha was killed as he tried to break through the cordon surrounding him.

The entire operation, in which helicopters circled overhead, lasted about two hours, from 3:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.

The Danhash and Salah families, which owned two houses in which Kapisha hid, were then ordered out of their homes and bulldozers razed the buildings to the ground.

Local residents said that more than 100 trees were also destroyed. They protested the demolitions as being unfair, saying Kapisha did not live in the houses but was sheltered behind them. Angry neighbors shouted at the soldiers after the demolitions to "get out of here."

Hebron commander B. told reporters the homes and trees were destroyed because the troops suspected there might be more gun-

men in the two houses, and this was standard practice.

The elimination of the major Hebron cell of Izzadin Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas, does not mean there are no gunmen left in Hebron, military sources said. They estimate that there are two more gangs left with a total of five members.

It was the third time in two months that troops successfully tracked down members of the gang.

Three were shot dead in their car April 16 as they drove through an orchard on the southern outskirts of Hebron. Kapisha was originally thought to be among them.

On June 2, troops cornered Kapisha's deputy, Hamed Yaghmour, in a house in downtown Hebron, shot him in a gunfight and then left him under the ruins of the house, which they bulldozed to the ground.

Kapisha's cell was considered responsible for killing at least six Israelis over a one-year period - Margalit Ruth Shohat and Rafael Yairi on May 17, 1994, and Rabbi Amiram Olami on November 27, 1994, in attacks near Beit Haggai; Sarit Prigal near Kiryat Arba on July 7, 1994; and Nahum Hoss and Yehuda Partosh in an attack on Bus No. 160 near Glass Square on March 20 this year.

The cell was also held responsible for wounding several soldiers in shooting attacks on vehicles, and for the attempted kidnapping of a settler near Alon Shvut.

Hebron remained under curfew last night after access to the city was blocked from the early morning. Troops and border policemen were combing the Halhoul-Hebron area.

Last-ditch bid for agreement

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SENIOR Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were continuing their talks on IDF redeployment and security late last night and were planning to continue today if needed.

According to a senior official in Jerusalem last night at midnight, the aim was to reach a "breakthrough," but short of a full-blown self-rule deal.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and Palestinian chief negotiator Ahmed Qreia were in their fourth day of intensive talks in a last-ditch bid to reach tomorrow's July 1 target date.

"If we get the breakthrough on redeployment and security, then it will be announced by [Foreign

Minister Shimon] Peres and [PLO chairman Yasser] Arafat either on Friday or Saturday night.

This would put then put us in the home-stretch for a complete deal, and then details would be ironed out over the next several days," the official said.

Asked to characterize the prospects of such a deal, the official said, "It does not look bad. But, when it comes to negotiations, you can never know for sure until it is done."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin led a meeting of ministers yesterday to discuss a possible Palestinian prisoner

release.

However, officials insist that the reason that actual prisoner releases were not announced was because of the Palestinian hunger strike.

They said any decision they made now would appear to be surrendering to Palestinian pressure.

They therefore decided to de-

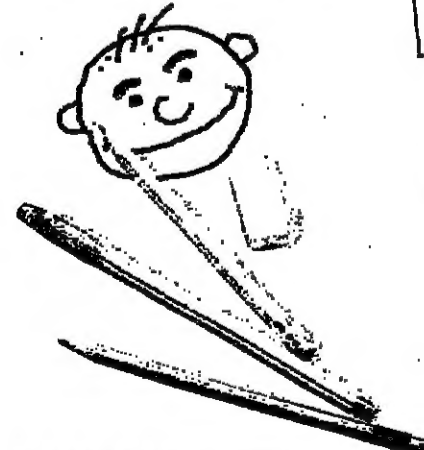
lay the move and instead discuss which Palestinian prisoners would be eligible to be released.

Officials said they believed 3,000 Palestinians would qualify for release, with some to perhaps be released when an agreement is reached, and another group just before Palestinian elections.

It remains far from clear whether the full 3,000 will be released over the next several months.

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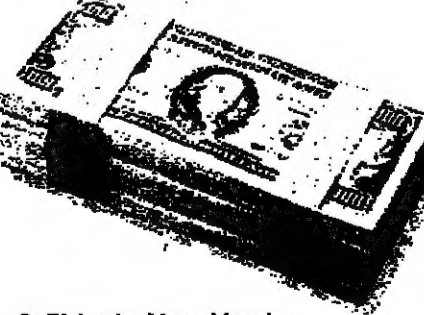
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The current rates for three, six and twelve month subscriptions, and the price of the weekday edition remain unchanged.

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	7:11	8:32
Tel Aviv	7:29	8:34
Haifa	7:23	8:35
Beersheba	7:26	8:24
Eilat	7:22	8:28



Netanyahu vows he won't talk about document source

LIKUD leader Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he would not cooperate with the Military Police if it was asked to examine how he obtained the document he quoted in the Knesset plenum on Wednesday.

A group called Tzohar 96, identified with the Labor party, yesterday filed a police complaint against Netanyahu in Jerusalem for "revealing a classified military document," "giving information to the enemy"

and "violating censorship laws."

The document, apparently prepared by the IDF Planning Branch, contains what Netanyahu claims are instructions to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak on Israel's negotiating stand at the talks with his Syrian counterpart. Netanyahu claimed the document shows the government has conceded on three points to the Syrians: asymmetric redeployment; a cut in the

Syrian standing forces; and Israeli-manned early warning stations on the Golan Heights.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres denied Netanyahu's statement that the document contained instructions from the prime minister to Shahak, and said it was just one of many prepared by the military. Netanyahu said the document was the main one given to Shahak before the talks. Netanyahu said it is essential in a

democratic country for the opposition to be able to present documents which prove their claims against the government. "These things are not hidden from the Syrians, only from the Israeli public," Netanyahu told Israel Radio. On the possibility of an investigation into the affair, Netanyahu said: "This is a track that could end in gagging mouths and

that's a real threat to the Israeli democracy... It's essential that the opposition have sources in the most sensitive areas of the state and that these sources provide reliable information. There can't be a barricade blocking the transfer of information by a police state."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Netanyahu was obliged to cooperate if it were decided to investigate the criminal aspects of the af-

fair, adding Netanyahu had acted irresponsibly. The complaint is now being handled by the police fraud squad. Tzohar 96 also asked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Zur to begin the process of removing Netanyahu's political immunity, and bringing him to trial.

What should I have done with this document? Kept it locked up in my drawer, thereby allowing Rabin and Peres to continue jeopardizing this nation's most basic existential interests?

It was my duty to seek to prevent any more damage than was already wrought to the country's security."



Meretz supporters yesterday urge Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to sign the next stage of the agreement with the Palestinians by offering him cartons of eggs outside the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. A poster states, in a Hebrew pun, that 'You need eggs [balls] to make peace.' (Meir Kfir)

Tourism Ministry recalls brochure that put land in Syrian hands

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Tourism Ministry did a fast backtrack yesterday, recalling a brochure on tourist development around Lake Kinneret which indicated that a number of sites might be returned to the Syrians.

The brochure, prepared by a team of architects and urban planners appointed by the ministry, presented a plan for developing tourist areas around the lake by the year 2000. The team included Prof. Yigael Tsamir, an architect and regional and urban planner, Ruth Friedman, an expert in urban planning, and Yaron Eshkolot, an expert in tourism marketing.

In the brochure, sites such as the Kinar Beach, the Kursi Beach and the Nukaleh Beach were marked. "likely to be returned to Syria," Baram asked the ministry's legal advisor yesterday to investigate how it was possible for an official ministry publication to contain a comment of this sort.

Leading rabbis back possible Shabbat desecration in derbies

HERB KEINON

TWO leading rabbis, Avraham Shapira and Aaron Soloveichik, are said to have given their nod to settler demonstrations scheduled for tomorrow, even though it may entail Shabbat desecration.

Settlers in Karnei Shomron, Kedumim, Elkana, Sha'arei Tikva and Shavei Shomron are planning to block roads leading from Nablus to Kalkilya and Tulkarm on Shabbat.

They hope to disturb what they say are planned Palestinian celebrations to mark July 1, the target date for the signing of an agreement on IDF redeployment in the territories.

"We have information that halls have been rented in Kalkilya to celebrate their 'independence,'" said Vicky Berglas, head of the Karnei Shomron Action Committee behind the protests.

"We want to prevent the celebrations and show the Arabs that we control the roads," said Berglas.

Berglas met with former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira on Wednesday and quoted him as saying, "this is important, this is necessary, do it."

Soloveichik, dean of the Brisk Yeshiva in Chicago and the leading talmudic authority at Yeshiva University in New York, faxed an opinion to Berglas that read, "the question is whether it is permitted to desecrate Shabbat in order to stop PLO delegations from coming on Shabbat to uproot settlements. The answer is that it is a big mitzva to do on Shabbat everything possible to prevent the dangers expected from removing settlements."

Let's see what happened in Karnei Shomron... "Celebration and demonstrations will take place in Kalkilya, Nablus and additional cities on Shabbat. We must make clear to the Arabs that we are here, and continue to control the roads."

"For this purpose," the leaflet stated, "the public is called to come out in full force to the junction at the entrance of Givat Shomron to block the roads to Arab cars going to the celebrations. Shabbat prayers will take place at the site of the roadblock. This action is based on permission that was granted by Rabbi Avraham Shapira."

Berglas said the settlement's eruv, which enables carrying on Shabbat, will be extended to the junction where the roadblock will be set up to enable the carrying of rocks needed to block the road.

Deciphering the security arrangements debate

COMMENT
DORE GOLD

WITH the conclusion of the talks between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, important aspects of these delicate security discussions have emerged.

First, since the meeting in December between Shihabi and Shahak's predecessor, Ehud Barak, Israel has conceded far more than the Syrians.

In April, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dropped his previous demand that security arrangements include mutual cuts in the two countries' standing armies. Now it appears that Israel is also dropping its demand that any limited forces zones to be instituted east of the Golan Heights be significantly deep in southern Syria.

An IDF planning document for the talks leaked to the Knesset by Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu notes that "limited force dispositions will allow establishing a reliable defensive system for the central interests of each

side." It continues: "We are aware of the importance of Damascus' defense in the eyes of our Syrian colleagues."

These guidelines mean the IDF will not be pushing the bulk of Syria's armored forces north of Damascus as part of any withdrawal. Thus, significantly asymmetric demilitarization arrangements whereby the Syrians pull their forces back some 50-60 km. while the IDF pulls back a token 5 km., as in the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, does not appear to be planned for the Syrian front. The Syrians meanwhile insist on equal security arrangements.

Second, while the IDF is making many of its proposals on government instructions, the army still has taken some tough positions that could differ from even greater concessions the political echelon is ready to make.

For example, the IDF is opposing full withdrawal, insisting on holding on to the cliffs overlooking the Golan Heights. The IDF understands that if the Syrians violate their peace treaty, there will be a race for the Golan Heights. If Israel controls the approaches to them, it can more easily rush forces to a proper defense line. This principle was used by Israeli planners in Sinai, who thought the IDF might have to take the EL-Arish-Ras Mohammed line if the Egyptians ever re-militarized Sinai.

The IDF document insists on maintaining Israeli early-warning stations on Mount Hermon, which "provide unique warning capabilities that have no substitute." These positions mean the Rabin government could end up with concessions that contradict

the IDF's positions. Should Israelis become aware of this gap, it will make it even harder to market a Syrian-Israeli treaty to a wary public for any future referendum.

Dr. Gold is the director of the US Foreign and Defense Policy Project at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Body washes ashore

THE body of Romanian worker Nicolai Tanas, 27, washed ashore yesterday in Tel Aviv. Tanas had gone swimming at Hasharon Beach in Herzliya on Wednesday and was swept out to sea.

US Embassy details aid for territories

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide \$5.2 million this fiscal year for five ongoing projects in the territories, the US Embassy announced Wednesday.

Agreements were recently signed with representatives of five US private voluntary organizations to implement the projects. The National Democratic Institute received an additional \$700,000 for the Democratic Understanding and Development Project in the territories, while AMIDEAST is receiving \$1 million for the West Bank and Gaza Institutional Development Project.

The American Near East Refugee Aid group will receive \$1.5m. to develop industrial zones and promote economic growth.

Sheikh Yassin's health deteriorating, says Hamas

GAZA (Reuters) - The Hamas movement said yesterday that the health of its jailed leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, has deteriorated in recent days and it warned Israel of reprisals if he died.

The wheelchair-bound Yassin, who is serving a 15-year sentence imposed in 1988, is being held in solitary confinement without medical attention, it said.

"The Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement holds [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin's government responsible for the life of the crippled sheikh and considers what is happening as a pre-

meditated attempt to kill him," it said.

Yassin, the revered spiritual leader of Islamists in Judea/Samaria and Gaza who set up Hamas with the outbreak of the intifada, has joined thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in a hunger strike for freedom.

The Prisons Authority denied the allegations. "There is no change in Yassin's prison conditions. He is being held in a cell with two other inmates and he is getting appropriate medical attention," a spokeswoman said.

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State gets time to make rules on surrogate mothers

EVELYN GORDON

THE regulations outlawing surrogate motherhood will be eliminated within the next several months, but the High Court of Justice will determine exactly when only at a later date.

The court is hearing a petition by 25 couples who cannot have children normally and cannot afford to hire a surrogate overseas.

"We're disappointed," said petitioner Tamar Martin after the hearing. "Each time it's another half year and then another half year. They have time - but for us the biological clock is ticking."

Government attorney Osnat Mandel opened the hearing by saying the state agreed with the petitioners' claim that the regulations were promulgated illegally, and should be annulled.

However, she asked the court to cancel the regulations only in another six months to give the government time to pass legislation on the issue, "so a normative vacuum will not be created."

The legislation would permit surrogacy in cases of medical necessity, with the approval of a committee of experts. It would not permit surrogacy for reasons of convenience, however.

Justices Dov Levine, Zvi Tal and Eliahu Mazza initially said they would accept the state's proposal - though they added even more time might be better - but the petitioners' attorney, Amnon Ben-Dror, demanded the cancellation take place immediately.

For some of the women - such as one who has cancer - it is not clear they will still be able to donate eggs in six months, he explained. While eggs can be donated now and frozen, this decreases the chances of a successful surrogacy from 12% to 6%.

"But [these women] are part of a larger community, which has an interest in setting norms," Levine responded.

Tal added that there are many questions about surrogacy in both civil and Jewish law - such as whether the child belongs to the biological or the surrogate mother - and it is better to have these resolved before any surrogate children are born.

Ben-Dror also charged there was no reason to believe legislation would be completed in six months. As Levine said, the bill has not even made it to the ministerial committee on legislation during the last six months.

Sanctions at hospitals continue

JUDY SIEGEL

STOREROOMS in all the government hospitals will open two hours late - at 10 a.m. rather than 8 a.m. - on Sunday, as part of continuing sanctions by hospital administrative and maintenance workers.

Yesterday, outpatient clinics opened late and the day before telephone exchanges in the hospitals shut down for two hours.

Sunday's sanctions, which will affect all 30 government hospitals, will mean no removal of dirty laundry nor supply of clean laundry and disposable medical equipment for two hours.

The union said the government is not carrying out decisions of the Padeh Committee for granting professional advancement to workers.

The Health Ministry spokeswoman said it is negotiating with the Civil Service Commission to resolve the dispute and bring an end to sanctions. The next meet will be held on Sunday.

Kayaking death points to epilepsy

AN inquiry into the death of 12-year-old Daniel Scharf, whose kayak capsized on the Kinneret during the Hapoel Games, points to a history of epilepsy. After having suffered two blows to his skull in 1993 and given his medical record, his participation in such a sport was concluded to be 'astounding.'

Heather Chait



Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni talks with Tigrid Shvita (left), the first Arab woman to be appointed to run a post office in Israel, at the dedication yesterday of the facility in Tira, north of Kfar Sava. Kifah Masarwa of the Postal Authority board of directors looks on.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beersheba man crushed to death in factory

A Beersheba man, Yigal Chen, 28, was crushed to death yesterday when a platform from a hydraulic lift he was working on collapsed on him at the Markovot Brom factory in the Ramat Hovev industrial area outside the city. An investigation into the accident was launched by factory officials and Labor and Social Affairs Ministry investigators. Amir Rozenblit

Sentence reduced for theft of tank

The Tel Aviv Military Court of Appeals reduced the sentence yesterday of Amri Nehemia, who was convicted of stealing a tank from his base last November, from two years to 18 months' imprisonment, and shortened the time during which his license will be suspended, from seven to four years. The judges also recommended setting up a system to locate and help troubled soldiers before they take desperate action. The judges ruled that Nehemia's actions were based "to a large extent, on the makeup of his personality." Itim

Israeli males among longest-lived

The life expectancy of Israeli males is 75, the second highest in the world only to Japan. Life expectancy for women, 79, is 10th in the world, and equal to Western European countries. The data was released yesterday by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh during the dedication of two psychogeriatric in the Sha'ar Menashe Hospital. Itim

Soroka director steps down

SOROKA Hospital Director-General Dr. Haim Reuvani is leaving his post after six years and will return to work in its pediatrics department. He will also work on research projects and teach at Ben-Gurion University's medical school. Reuvani, 44, is to be replaced by Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, another pediatrician who is director of the central region of Kupat Holim Clalit. The appointment was approved by Clalit Director-General Avigdor Kaplan. Judy Siegel

Grade-schoolers start camp Sunday

SUMMER vacation officially begins Sunday for elementary-school pupils, and it is estimated that some 70 percent of those in grades 1-4 will attend summer camps. Community centers around the country are expected to run camps for more than 80,000 youngsters, with 12,000 signed up for a special camp designed to help youngsters improve their English. Other camps are offering special programs in media, sports, martial arts, science, computers, theater and other fields of interest. Itim

Residents of Ta'anachim settlements stage protest over pullback

DAVID RUDGE

ANGRY residents of moshavim in the Ta'anachim settlements near Afula blocked roads and clashed with police yesterday to protest both plans to pull the IDF out of Jenin and their own economic plight.

The demonstrators burned tires and dumped vegetables and chickens at two main crossroads - the Yisrael junction connecting the Ta'anachim settlements with Afula, Beit She'an and Jenin and at the turnoff to the region from the Megido to Afula road.

Police acted with restraint until some of the protesters started to throw eggs and vegetables at them. Police made a number of arrests and dispersed demonstrators with the aid of water cannons.

The prime concern of the angry farmers was over what they described as the government's neglect of their economic difficulties. The moshavim in the region have accumulated debts totaling more than NIS 350 million.

Gilboa regional council head Danny Atar said the farmers were unable to meet repayments on their debts and would be financially crippled unless new arrangements were worked out.

Atar said representatives from the region had met with MKs and government officials in the past few

Panel calls for Shabbat closure of capital street

BILL HUTMAN

MAYOR Ehud Olmert was presented with recommendations yesterday to meet haredi demands and implement Shabbat and holiday road closures on Rehov Shmuel Hanavi and several smaller city streets.

However, the more controversial issue of the fate of Rehov Bar-Ilan was not included in the report, turned over to the mayor by a committee set up last year on Shabbat road closures.

The committee will present a recommendation on Bar-Ilan - the site of violent haredi demonstrations - in four to eight weeks, said committee chairman Elazar Sturn.

Sturn said the recommendations presented to Olmert were aimed at "meeting the needs of both the religious and secular populations, and putting an end to the long conflict over Shabbat road closures."

Haredi leaders warned of renewed unrest because of the postponement of the Bar-Ilan decision. Meretz councilor Ornan Yekutieli termed the recommendations "political" and said the closure of Rehov Shmuel Hanavi would be a "prize to haredi hooligans" who had rioted there.

The committee also recommended closing the remaining roads in the Har Nof neighborhood still open on

Shabbat and where secular Jews do not live.

Rehov Brandeis, which links Rehov Malchei Yisrael with Bar-Ilan, Rehov Katav Sofer in Givat Shaul, and Rehov Haim Mikhlin in Bayit Vagan were also recommended closed on Shabbat.

The committee's recommendations are not binding, and require final approval of the mayor.

Rehov Bar-Ilan, however, can only be closed by order of the Transport Ministry because it has been designated by the ministry as a major artery. The ministry has already voiced opposition to the closure.

Two roads haredim had fought hard to close were recommended to remain open: Yam Suf in Sanhedria and Ramot Eshkol, and the section of Malchei Yisrael between Kikar Rokach and the Schneller army base.

"The issue of Shabbat traffic has divided the public in Jerusalem, and it was necessary to find solutions that would balance the needs of the various populations of the city," the report begins.

The committee, made up of both religious and secular public figures, also called on the various sides in the conflict to "have respect for the positions of the others."

Meuhedet signing deals with private pharmacies

JUDY SIEGEL

KUPAT Holim Meuhedet is signing personal contracts with private pharmacists around the country to increase its control over dispensed prescriptions and eliminate "irregularities" by a small number of pharmacists.

Dr. Ze'ev Aharonson, director of the health fund's medical branch, said yesterday that Meuhedet had decided to cancel the arrangement whereby the Israel Pharmacy Association acted as a go-between between the pharmacist and the health fund.

"Under the old system, prescription slips are sent to the association, which presents them to us. The association is responsible for distributing money for medications among the pharmacists." No other health fund has used the association as a middleman in this way.

Aharonson said the health fund has learned of a number of cases in which pharmacists claim they have supplied certain drugs to members

when they have in fact supplied other, cheaper products, and made a profit. Having direct contact with pharmacists will give Meuhedet greater ability to supervise prescriptions.

"Before signing a contract with a particular pharmacist, we want to make sure he or she will be carrying out our wishes - such as marking down the patient's identity-card number on a prescription," said Aharonson.

Aharonson denied claims by a number of pharmacists in Jerusalem - where the policy change is being carried out first - that the health fund has refused to sign contracts with them, barring the pharmacies from filling Meuhedet prescriptions and, practically, dooming them to bankruptcy. "Our aim is to reach agreements individually with all 500 private pharmacies in the country," Aharonson said. "But we want to ensure that our arrangements and requirements are respected."

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The policy of peace

JON SIMONS

PRIME Minister Rabin's recent aside about the cost of providing security for two small Jewish settlements close to Jenin provoked the resumption of an old argument.

If, as Rabin's comments imply, the government wishes to evacuate settlements in the heart of the Palestinian population because of the difficulty of defending their residents, where would we stop? Why not take this line of reasoning to its logical conclusion and evacuate the whole of Israel, as it lies in the center of a predominantly Arab area?

This impeccable logic is matched by an argument about the rights of Jews to live in the Land of Israel.

If the government and the left claim that Jews have no right to live beyond the Green Line because this is occupied territory, then what right do Jews have to live in Haifa and Tel Aviv? Surely these cities were also settled against the wishes of the Palestinians, and some parts of them conquered in war.

In each argument the necessary conclusion is that either Israel be abandoned, or Jewish settlements on the territories be preserved and defended, whatever the cost.

Such arguments may have much logical validity, but they lack political sense. They do not include the costs of following them to their conclusion.

If all the Jewish settlements in the territories are to be placed under Jewish sovereignty and

protected by the IDF, there can be no withdrawal from nearly all of the territories, no meaningful Palestinian self-government, and thus no peace agreement.

OF COURSE, the political point of many of the settlements was precisely to prevent any new partition of the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan by creating irreversible facts on the ground.

For example, Binyamin Begin stated on TV that the two settle-

It's time for the government to be open with the settlers

ments referred to are vital to Israel's security as they, along with all the others, stand in the way of the establishment of a "PLO state." Such statements should clarify for hesitant Labor leaders that the settlements are obstacles in the way of implementation of its peace policy.

The policy of peace is one of compromise, not one of the pursuit of principles to their deadly ends. There are two peoples who claim the right to what is known as Palestine or the Land of Israel.

Simply put, Israelis who demand that the settlements stay also insist, implicitly or explicitly, on the exclusive right of the Jewish people to the whole Land of

Israel. They do not want to compromise.

If we want to live in peace, the land has to be partitioned. There are no absolute, divine, or historical principles which determine where the partition line should be.

To a large extent, the border will be a matter of military and historical contingency, as a variation of the 1949 armistice lines. On one side of the border will be Israel, and on the other, Palestinian self-government, presumably in the form of a sovereign state.

Israel will be responsible for the security of civilians on its side of the border, and the Palestinians for civilians on their side.

The settlements Rabin referred to are not on the Israeli side of the future partition line. However, Rabin badly fudged the point by focusing on the financial cost of defending isolated settlements during the next phase of the agreement.

It is time for the government to be open and honest with Israelis living in the territories, by giving some indication of where it expects the border to be. It could then give the settlers a choice to relocate with compensation in Israel proper, or live under protection of the Palestinian government.

If they then choose not to move, they can no more expect IDF protection than Israelis living in Los Angeles.

The writer teaches political science at the Hebrew University.



It might be a little cramped – but at least it's home

EMANUEL FELDMAN

IN 1996 it finally happened: Israel and Syria signed a treaty giving Israel undisputed sovereignty over Jerusalem's newly reconstructed Central Bus Station, including one outgoing lane.

President Clinton, in a ceremony on the White House lawn, praised Israel for not allowing petty details like territory to stand in the way of peace, adding that "to attain full jurisdiction over this revered bus station is a fitting climax to the history of the wandering Jew."

Prime Minister Rabin declared: "It has been a long journey, but we finally have a homeland the world can live with – and the outgoing lane will guarantee safe passage if we have to wander again."

Hafez Assad publicly renounced all attempts to wrest land by terrorism, since it was much easier to do so by negotiation. He pledged that those Jews who could not be squeezed into the bus station would be repatriated to friendly regimes like Syria and Iraq.

Simon Peres stated that "this accord proves to all the world that for us, 'Land for Peace' is not just a slogan. Unfortunately, we have no more land to surrender – but if we did, we would give that up, too. We hope the world will now see what really fine people we are once you get to know us."

Then Assad declared that it was intolerable for a foreign power to have full sovereignty over so hal-

lowed an Arab site as the Jerusalem Bus Station. But as a gesture of goodwill he would allow Israel to retain a lower level, plus the concession stands, since "they do so well at concessions."

Peres agreed: The fewer buses we have, the more difficult it will be for terrorists to attack them.

The world was ecstatic. The New York Times declared that "Assad is to be commended for his

opposed to peace. It will serve them right to have to live in a crowded bus station. Who tells them to have such large families?"

"We have pledged to build a brand new western wall at the western wall of the station – and they're still not satisfied."

Intoned Peres: "It is always the religious who oppose progress. They are living in medieval times. They should come into the 20th

through a bill sponsored by the Party to Prevent Religious Coercion labeling all anti-government statements subversive. All protesters were placed under house arrest.

Terror increased. Peres flew off to Damascus. Two days later he returned in triumph.

"In my hand are 25 post-dated letters from the president, in which he regrets in advance the next 25 terrorist attacks. No longer need we worry whether we have his regrets – for I hold them firmly in my hand."

"And as an additional good-faith gesture, he has pledged that as soon as we run out of these, he will issue new ones. He is prepared to do this for as long as necessary."

The next day Syria declared that the term "Central," as in Central Bus Station, was offensive to Arab sensibilities. He demanded that the new Jewish homeland be known as "The Final Station" (Tahana Sofit).

Rabin's response was unequivocal: "We must not falter over a mere name after finally arriving at a solution."

"But I faithfully vow: This lower level of our beloved bus station, which carries so many memories for all of us, will forever remain eternal and undivided."

The writer, formerly rabbi in Atlanta, Georgia, is editor of Tradition magazine, and lives in Jerusalem.

The Jews need wander no more now they have undisputed sovereignty over Jerusalem's Central Bus Station

patience that overcame paranoid Israeli fears."

Said Ha'aretz: "No longer will we have to dominate other people through might and power." Ma'ariv's cover featured a full-color picture of the new, compact bus station under a banner headline: "If you will it, it is no dream."

In the Knesset, Rabin was challenged about the bus station referendum he had promised. "I will hold it," he pledged, "the day after the implementation of the treaty. Stop whining," he added.

Shulamit Aloni was livid at the opposition. "Only the hardcore are

century, where there is compromise and tolerance. I have read the Bible, and nowhere does God promise the Jews both upper and lower levels of bus stations. Any religious Jew who doesn't like it can go back to Brooklyn."

TERROR intensified. As a goodwill gesture, the government gave Syria 50 military trucks. It also released 400 convicted terrorists, and changed the words of Haikva so that Arab sensibilities would not be offended.

As anti-government demonstrations erupted, the Knesset pushed

Test for the Third Way

ELISHA HAAS
ABRAHAM WACHMAN

IN the Third Way, IDF generals sit alongside representatives of the settlement movement, the academic community, and men of action from various circles.

They have joined together in the "middle of the road," moved by concern that the left's mystical 'give-peace-a-chance' gamble and the right's mystical 'not-an-inch' messianism may both lead to disaster. They believe it is possible and necessary to reach broad national consensus on a 21-onist plan, a rational process that will lead to a stable peace.

There are serious misgivings that the present government is engaging in an impetuous diplomatic process that is endangering the existence of the state. If it is carried through to fruition, Israel will shrink to a small, crowded, fragmented coastal country undergoing gradual strangulation.

Worst of all, the outcome of submission to the enemy's demands – return to the suffocating '67 borders, eliminating Jewish settlements (some of them 25 years old or more) and transferring their population – will be an Israel left exposed and lacking the determination to fight for its survival and for Zionist aims.

These aims lie at the base of Israel's motivation and inner strength, and of its ability to deter the elemental and ongoing hostility of its neighbors. This takes precedence over other weighty considerations regarding the strategic and tactical value of the territories in the event of war.

By its submission, the government is sending a clear message that the Zionist entity has no red lines, and that, in its eagerness for peace treaties, it is losing the will and the resolution to fight for its country.

Not so our neighbors. They are holding fast to their principles. They aren't about to jump through some "window of opportunity" at any price.

What Avraham Shohat and others call the "first way" (i.e. "the way of peace") is, in fact, nothing of the kind. It is liable to usher in a hard war, one fought in conditions of dangerous disadvantage.

In achieving "peace" treaties, the government sees itself as achieving the quintessential Zionist objective; and it sees military security and "personal security" as the first and only legitimate criterion for political decisions.

Many good people have fallen

into this trap. The absurdity of it is that no other country views its borders, territories and communities as "bargaining chips" to be exchanged for "security."

On the contrary: The meaning of national security is ensuring the permanence of national assets – borders, territories and communities, wherever they may be.

A "peace treaty" isn't peace, and a nation which hasn't lost its will to exist doesn't play Russian roulette with its existence, not even in the face of war.

Thus it follows that the question isn't "what to give up" – i.e. what price we should pay the Arabs in return for their agreeing to sign peace treaties – but "what

Can it lay down clear and unambiguous red lines, unhampered by 'historical loyalty'?

not to give up," in other words: the red lines Israel is willing to fight to maintain. This ought to be made clear in the plan for the permanent settlement.

But the government is doing just the opposite. It has no red lines; and it implements interim stages that aren't anchored in any real plan. The situation this creates is dangerous, continually deteriorating.

A plan needs to be based on these central principles:

- Insistence on Israel's absolute right to impose its rule on essential territories conquered in a defensive war, and insistence on the principle that an aggressor has no right to demand a return to the previous borders.

- Assurance of uninterrupted Israeli rule over the whole length of the "eastern column," from the Golan, to Eilat, the extended Jerusalem corridor, and the blocs of settlements in Judea and Samaria.

- Israel's obligation to make it totally and unambiguously clear that, as a precondition to a peace agreement, it will never accept demands to dismantle Jewish settlements and transfer their occupants.

- Any agreement must enable the establishment of an indepen-

dent Palestinian entity in Judea and Samaria.

- Israel must remain the dominant force in the Land of Israel, and lay down the terms for the emerging Palestinian entity.

The current prime minister and his government are once again waving the Camp David agreement around as a precedent for the Golan, but Camp David (which we feel was wrong and dangerous) must not be made a binding precedent.

NO HISTORIC process is a compelling precedent, especially if it is liable to endanger the country's existence. The prime minister has sacrificed every bargaining position vis-a-vis the Syrian leader, as well as any possibility of achieving a compromise in the spirit of his election promises.

Under the umbrella and smoke screen of "precedent" this government is maneuvering the public toward the moment when the only choices will be acceptance of a dangerous gamble, or the threat of comprehensive war.

The government has totally eliminated the possibility of the rational middle way, which the Labor Party's manifesto (which by now is fiction) calls "territorial compromise."

Anyone rushing to sign an agreement at any price must expect regular pressure for unilateral concessions accompanied by threats of war from the other side. Withdrawal to the '67 (=49) borders will let the Arabs know that the way is open to demand the 1947 "partition borders."

From Israel's point of view, then, the only basis for any lasting agreement must be the current situation on the ground, and not anything that existed before.

There is urgent need for a "political center" which can offer an alternative that neither concedes everything, nor annexes everything. It must also courageously offer the Palestinians genuine independence, without giving up Israel's right to annex essential territories, and without dismantling settlements.

Because the Labor Party has disintegrated ideologically, and because there is no center party that can put forward a nationalist Zionist alternative and consolidate a broad national consensus around itself, the Third Way has found itself obliged to become a party, formulate a comprehensive plan for a permanent settlement, and prevent immediate steps that are dangerous and irreversible.

But the Third Way's true test will be its ability to take an unambiguous stand and lay down clear and compelling red lines without delay, unhampered by "historic loyalty" to persons or party.

The writers are members of the Double Column Foundation. Abraham Wachman is a professor of architecture at the Technion. Elisha Haas is a professor of bio-physics at Bar-Ilan University.

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Dozens die in Seoul disaster

Managers 'knew there was a danger'

SEOUL (Reuters) — An exclusive Seoul department store collapsed like a house of cards yesterday, killing at least 27 people and leaving scores of others entombed in the debris, with those still alive screaming for help.

Rescue workers said at least 700 injured survivors had been plucked from the wreckage after one of the Sampoong store's two five-storey blocks fell without warning while thronged with early evening shoppers.

An army sergeant helping the rescue operation said many of those trapped under the rubble of the six-year-old building were presumed dead.

"Scores of people are still buried but in view of smoke coming out of the rubble most of them would have died of suffocation," he told Reuters.

Police would not say what caused the accident but rescue officials confirmed reports that government safety teams had visited the store after a supervisor found structural defects in the ceilings of the top floor.

At midnight, rescuers were combing delicately through heaps of concrete debris in a race against time to save the

lives of shoppers trapped deep below and still screaming for attention.

"I could hear many people trapped under the rubble shouting for help. But we are not able to reach them," a rescue worker told state television.

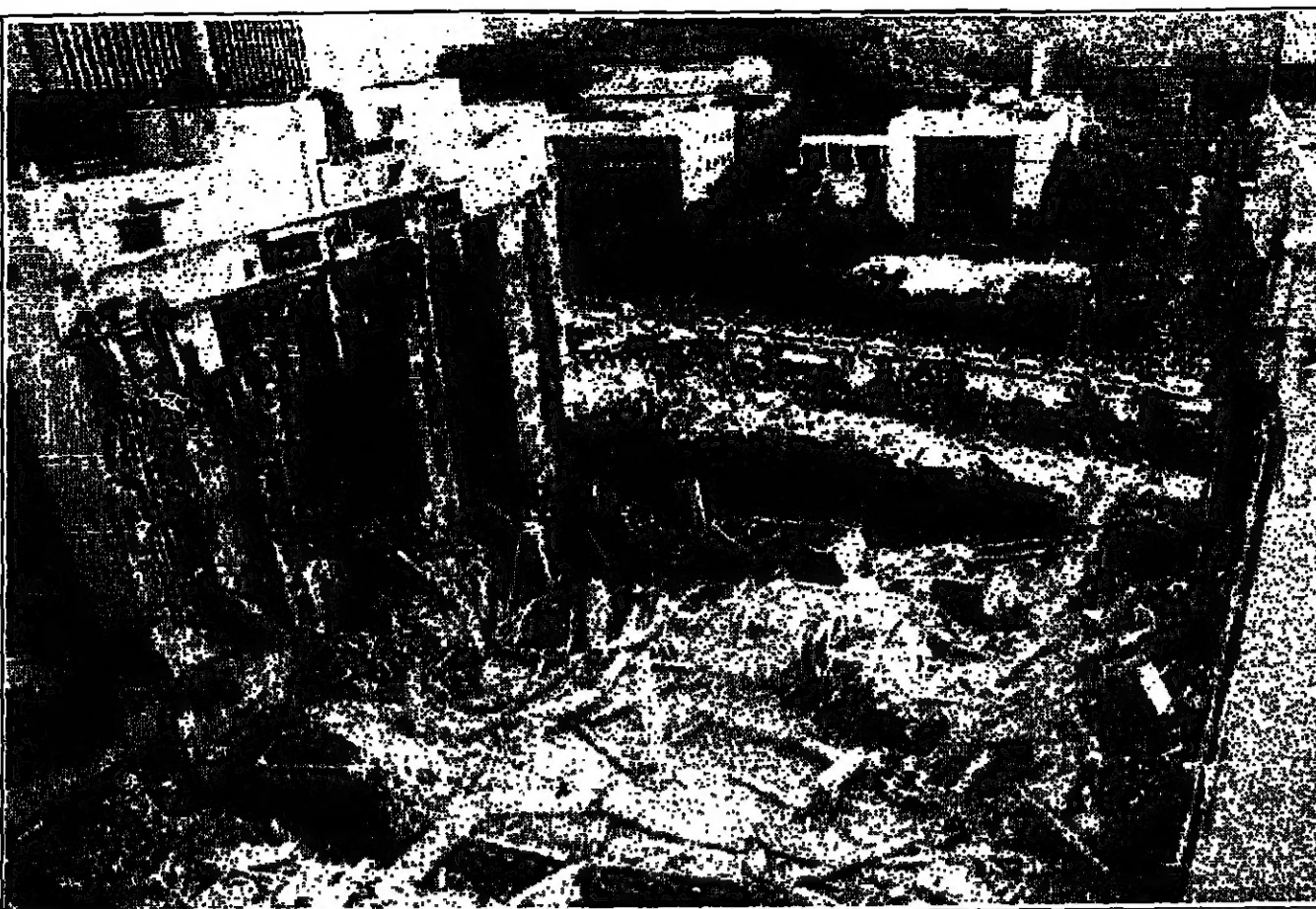
Remote cameras tracking through the debris showed people caught by beams and girders, their faces caked with plaster and showing the deep stress of shock.

State television said the US army in Hawaii was sending emergency excavation equipment to help in the rescue. A garrison of 37,000 US troops is based in South Korea.

Sampoong, one of Seoul's most exclusive department stores in the upmarket district of Kangnam, is a favorite with the city's foreign community but there were no reports of foreigners among the dead or injured.

"I heard a blast, and suddenly the shop wasn't there any more," said Canadian teacher Lorne Oliver, who was passing the store at the time of the disaster.

Gas valves were closed after the damage was detected, a move which could have saved outbreaks of fire.



The five-story Sampoong Department Store in Seoul lies in ruins yesterday with dozens still buried in the wreck. Witnesses said the building collapsed like a house of cards.

As it was, only a few fires smoldered, sending smoke billowing from the entangled wreckage as firefighters sprayed water.

A department store employee told

state television signs of collapse were apparent hours before the collapse. She said an emergency meeting of store management was called but no action was taken to close the building.

The collapse is the latest in a series of man-made disasters to hit South Korea in recent months, killing hundreds and causing acute embarrassment to the government of President Kim Young-sam.

Bosnia gives Euro force 30 days

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — The president of the Bosnian federation, Kresimir Zubak, said yesterday the new European rapid reaction force would have to leave Bosnia if its mission was not clarified within 30 days.

Zubak, a Croat, has objected to large numbers of new troops setting up to train in Croat-held western Bosnia, without first explaining their mission or seeking permission from the federation for their presence.

The federation unites Moslems and Croats in the 30 percent of Bosnia not held by Serbs. It was proclaimed in Washington 15 months ago after US-brokered negotiations to stop fighting between Croats and Moslems.

Zubak's ultimatum came as diplomats and politicians debated the purpose of the 12,000-strong Franco-British-Dutch force, sent to salvage the UN mission.

He stressed that a foreign strike force coming to Bosnia was obliged to deploy on Serb-held territory as well as Croat-held. His point reflected Moslem and Croat hopes that the force might be used to take on their better-armed Serb adversary in combat, something UN officials have ruled out.

US officials admitted they had little idea what the mandate of the new force would be, and said it might not go beyond that of existing UN peacekeeping troops.

Washington hopes that the force might respond more vigorously to obstruction from the Bosnian Serbs than the UN force, UNPROFOR, has done in the past are evidently fading.

The Bosnian government told the UN the inaction of its troops in the face of Bosnian Serb attacks had forced it to review whether to allow the peacekeepers to remain in the country.

Sporadic shelling echoed around Sarajevo early yesterday but guns were fairly muted compared to Wednesday's big blasts.

Unabomber says threat was 'a prank'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Authorities yesterday kept California under the tightest security for air travel and mail since the Gulf War despite an elusive bomber's claim that his threat to blow up an airliner was a prank.

Los Angeles International Airport workers searched bags and checked photo IDs as a dog sniffed for bombs at a boarding gate. Nervous passengers switched or canceled flights, and all mail in California was temporarily grounded.

The Unabomber, so named because many of his bombs were aimed at universities, has mailed or planted 16 package bombs since 1978, the FBI says.

In a letter received by *The New York Times*, the bomber who has killed three people and injured 23 said he didn't actually intend to attack a plane — the threat was just "one last prank" to stir things up.

He got his wish. The threat threw law enforcement, airport personnel and the public into a stifling dilemma: Either conduct some form of business as usual or shut down the world's fifth-busiest airport.

Atlantis, Mir dock in historic space linkup

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — An American shuttle docked with a Russian space station high over Earth yesterday and their commanders clasped hands joyously in an extraordinary sharing of technical skills between two former rivals.

A meter-long tunnel connected the ships, which together formed the largest manmade satellite ever put in space.

Two hours after the ships mated, Robert "Hoot" Gibson of Atlantis and Vladimir Dezhnev of Mir met in the tunnel and shook hands. One after the other, the Atlantis astronauts floated into the Mir for a televised gathering and exchange of symbolic gifts.

"How are you?" was heard again and again. It was an especially emotional reunion for American astronaut Norman Thagard who has been on the Mir for 105 days and Dr. Bonnie Dunbar from Atlantis. The two trained together with the Russians.

It was only the second time ships from two countries joined up in space. The first was 20 years ago between an American Apollo capsule and a Soviet Soyuz.

The Atlantis crew of seven included a fresh pair of cosmonauts for the Russian Mir, whose three crewmen looked forward to returning to Earth next week aboard the shuttle.

The two spacecraft were 400 km over Central Asia near the Russian-Mongolian border when

Gibson eased the Atlantis' and Mir's mating devices into first contact.

"We have capture," said Gibson, precisely on time at 4 p.m. The Mir commander gave a similar message to his home base.

Both ships had crews from both countries — along with two Russians on the Mir was American Norman Thagard. As a result, the space-to-ground connections to flight controllers in Houston and Kaliningrad crackled in English and Russian. The Mir also broke the tension by playing lively Russian folk songs.

The Mir was the passive partner in the union; its only task was to stay at the proper attitude.

One screen visible to ground controllers showed the view of the approaching shuttle from the

Mir. The other displayed what Gibson was seeing, a greenish target coming closer, slowly.

Cameras from Mir captured images of astronauts and cosmonauts waving and smiling from the Atlantis windows.

"It's a great feeling to be here," Gibson said. "We're lucky and we're honored and privileged to be part of this. It's great to be back joined in orbit again."

Daniel Goldin, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the US space agency, was in Kaliningrad for the event.

"It's just a wonderful dream come true," he told the Mir crew. He called the docking a "formal wedding" in space between the two nations.

Russian ministers offer resignations

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's top security officials offered to resign yesterday in response to parliament demands for their ouster over their handling of a hostage crisis that claimed scores of lives.

"Considering the harsh consequences of the tragedy ... the leaders of security structures asked that their resignations be accepted," President Boris Yeltsin's press service said in a statement.

Yeltsin will decide each case "on a personal basis," it said. A top lawmaker, Ivan Rybkin, said Yeltsin will announce his decision within two weeks.

The officials offering to quit include Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, Federal Security Service chief Sergei Stepashin and Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Yegorov.

Their readiness to step down comes amid intensive behind-the-scenes political maneuvering aimed at a no-confidence vote in the government tomorrow in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament.

The resignation offers allow

both sides to save face, and the no-confidence motion was expected to fail. Parliament can claim some degree of clout and Yeltsin can look responsive to their concerns without making an

immediate sacrifice.

But many legislators were skeptical about the entire array of resignation offers. "Isn't it just all for show on the eve of the vote?" asked Viktor Ilyukhin, the Communist chairman of the Duma's security committee.

"The only resignations that matter are the ones that are accepted," said reformer Grigory Yavlinsky.

Ultrarationalist Vladimir Zhirnovsky said the offers were "only to release steam" and predicted Yeltsin would only fire lower-ranking officials.

Some of the security ministers are among the president's closest allies and personal friends.

Their offers came at a Kremlin meeting of the Security Council where Yeltsin harshly criticized the handling of the hostage incident. The council includes top officials and presidential advisers on security matters.

"Russia has suffered moral, physical and political damage," Yeltsin told the grim-faced ministers sitting a long, white table. "We must find out exactly who is responsible."

The hostage tragedy began June 14 when Chechen rebels seized hundreds of civilians in the southern city of Budyonnovsk and demanded an end to Russia's war in their breakaway republic.

Mubarak threatens Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday that the mastermind of the attempt on his life was a Sudanese, and ordered 70 Sudanese evicted from a disputed border area.

The evictions follow a skirmish along the border that left two Sudanese dead. Mubarak threatened further actions against Sudan, but gave no specifics.

Further escalating tensions, a Sudan army spokesman, Brig. Mohamed Beshir Suliman, warned Egypt not to switch from diplomacy to "the language of the gun."

Mubarak, speaking in a televised speech to Egyptian intellectuals and artists, renewed his accusation that Sudanese Islamic leader Hassan Turabi was involved in the failed attack on him Monday in Addis Ababa.

"I know that two assassins died. One is maybe Egyptian and one is Yemeni," he said. "The third was arrested yesterday, his name is Mohammed Seraj, and he is the mastermind. He was hit, but the attackers carried him away and hid him. He is Sudanese."

Seraj has been identified by Ethiopian authorities as one of the team of attackers, but a security official in Addis Ababa yesterday denied he had been taken into custody.

"In the investigations, we have started to learn that they were planning this operation since March. Turabi and his col-

leagues," Mubarak said. "Unfortunately, all suspicions are that the operation came out of Sudan."

In Khartoum, Sudan's leader, Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan el-Bashir, denied Sudan's involvement and called Mubarak's accusations "irresponsible." Turabi, who is viewed as the power behind el-Bashir's government, also has denied a role in the attack.

Mubarak referred to the border skirmish Tuesday night, and said Sudanese officials evicted Egyptian military attaches and their families from their homes in Khartoum on Wednesday.

Mubarak announced that in retaliation, he had ordered the removal of 70 Sudanese posted in the disputed border area of Halai on the Red Sea.

Austrian Right objects to Wiesenthal honor

VIENNA 29 (Reuters) — Vienna honored two prominent Austrian Jews yesterday, but the far-right soured the occasion by opposing a tribute to veteran Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal.

The four parties in Vienna city council voted unanimously in a midnight closed session to make eminent psychotherapist Viktor Frankl, 90, an honorary citizen.

But the far-right Freedom party of populist Joerg Haider carried out its threat to oppose the honor for Wiesenthal, on the grounds that the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles displays Haider's picture next to those of Hitler, Stalin, Idi Amin and Pol Pot.

"Herr Wiesenthal has absolutely no influence in what the center does, whether this or that picture hangs in its rooms. It is a totally independent institution," a spokeswoman for Wiesenthal said. "This is absurd."

Conservatives, socialists and environmentalist Greens, who together hold 77 seats, easily outvoted the Freedom party, which has 22 council deputies, to give the honor to Wiesenthal, a longtime resident

of the Austrian capital.

The mainstream parties also passed a resolution condemning the far-right and expressing concern at its newspaper advertising campaign against the honor for Wiesenthal.

The majority also denied Haider's picture was hung alongside dictators and mass murderers.

It was exhibited "in a row with rightwing populists such as (Jean-Marie) Le Pen and (Ku Klux Klan leader) David Duke," they said.

"Of course Herr Wiesenthal thinks it is ridiculous to lump Haider in with Hitler and Stalin," his spokeswoman said. "He has suggested making changes to the exhibit that would make it perfectly clear what is meant."

Freedom party deputy Rainer Pawkowicz, who led the campaign, remained defiant.

"Wiesenthal could certainly be influential in ending this provocation," he said. "I invite Wiesenthal to go to Los Angeles with me and there, together, to remove Haider's portrait. So long as the picture hangs in the Wiesenthal museum we will never approve honorary citizenship," he said.

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On the nineteenth anniversary of the death of

Lt.-Col. JONATHAN NETANYAHU

who fell in Operation Jonathan at Entebbe, a memorial service will be held at Mt. Herzl Cemetery, Jerusalem, on Tuesday, July 4, at 5:30 p.m. Buses will leave for Mt. Herzl at 4:00 p.m. from Sderot Tarsat, Tel Aviv, (between Habimah and the Helena Rubinstein Pavilion).

Yoni's Friends and Family



The Honorary Officers, Directors and Staff of The Joint Israel Appeal of Great Britain and Ireland extend sincere condolences to the family, Kibbutz Soleim and Hanor Hatzion on the tragic passing of

LEIBI GEFFEN ז"ל

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved father and member

ALBERT PELCMAN ז"ל

we will hold a graveside service on Sunday, July 2, 1995, at 5:30 p.m. at the cemetery. After the service, we will gather in Beit Ha'am to reminisce about the deceased.

The Family and members of Habonim

A memorial service for our beloved

ARDON FRANK ז"ל

will be held on Tuesday, July 4, 1995, at 5:30 p.m. at the Kfar Shmaryahu cemetery.

The Family

With deep sorrow, we mourn the sudden death of our dear

ALEX

The funeral will take place today, Friday, June 30 at 12 noon at Kibbutz Magen Cemetery.

The Family

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved

BARNIE BALCOMBE ז"ל

we shall consecrate the tombstone at Herzliya Cemetery, Pinsky Street, at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 9.

Julia Balcombe and Family

The Executive and Staff of the S.A.Z.F. (ISRAEL) mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague

JANE DICKMAN

Our heartfelt condolences to her family

JUNE 30, 1995

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News in Focus

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1995

Spotlight on Filipino envoy casts giant shadow

Rosalinda De Perio-Santos is suspected of serving more than just her country's interests, Raine Marcus reports

ROSALINDA De Perio-Santos, the Philippine ambassador to Israel, cuts a flamboyant figure. She goes to all the right parties, is immaculately dressed and does not look her 61 years. Her composed appearance hides the fact she is under examination for financial irregularities and improper behavior.

These investigations are being conducted by both the Philippine government in Manila and the Foreign Ministry here based on information handed over by the Interior Ministry and others alleging she may be involved in the recruitment of Filipino workers here.

A Foreign Ministry source has said that "examinations have not led to any evidence that offenses have been committed."

But according to the same source, speaking to *The Jerusalem Post* on condition of anonymity, not all the information concerning the ambassador has been handed over yet by the Interior Ministry.

Documents seen by the *Post* include allegations that donations received by the ambassador for embassy equipment were deposited in the ambassador's personal bank account; that commercial profits were made from a used car deal; that promises were made to a Philippine personnel-company director here to expedite visas for potential workers; and that gold and diamond jewelry was sold to the same director at a profit.

De Perio-Santos, who has been here since October 1993 after a four-year period "on ice" in her home country because of alleged irregularities committed while she was the Filipino representative to the UN in Switzerland, denies all the allegations.

THE PHILIPPINES has not had a glorious record of diplomatic service - previous ambassadors and consuls-general were recalled for illegal recruitment activities.

According to the *Post's* sources, De Perio-Santos has not helped improve this reputation. Since her arrival, said several sources, De Perio-Santos has asked for donations from businessmen and individuals for embassy equipment.

One such donation was given by businessman Gideon Reiss, who in January gave \$1,500 to the embassy for a conference table. By May, said Reiss, the president of the Israeli/Philippine Friendship League, he had not been sent a receipt or even a "thank you" letter for his goodwill. But, to his surprise, a check issued to the Philippine Embassy was deposited into the ambassador's personal account at Tel Aviv's Kikar Medina branch of the Discount Bank.

De Perio-Santos denies asking Reiss for a donation for the table. But she does admit asking him for a contribution for a plane ticket for a sick Filipino girl to fly home for treatment.

"I saw that this girl worked for a very wealthy family which could have financed her ticket," said Reiss, who refused to pay the airfare.

Regarding the table, he sent a letter to De Perio-Santos in May asking her for a receipt.

Then, to his surprise, he said, De Perio-Santos phoned his wife telling her it was forbidden to accept donations, and that she had paid for the table in Cairo.

The ambassador should have known of this prohibition earlier - in September 1994 the Philippine government instructed its envoys that it was forbidden to receive donations for embassy equipment.

Reiss was reimbursed - in the form of a personal check from De Perio-Santos's Chase Manhattan bank account in Rockefeller Plaza, New York.

A second Israeli businessman, said another source, was also asked to donate a conference table. It is not known whether he actually gave the money.

The Foreign Ministry, according to an official there, had received a complaint from Reiss, but the ministry would neither confirm nor deny the complaint.

At a meeting with De Perio-Santos at her embassy this week, she denied she had asked Reiss or anyone else for donations.

"We were in the process of putting furniture in the embassy," she said. "He said, 'I would love to donate a conference table.' He offered, 'If you find a table you like, buy it and I will pay for it,' he said."

De Perio-Santos said she bought the table "and chairs" in Cairo in December 1993. Reiss's check, she confirmed, was deposited into her personal account.

"He is not donating NIS 4,500, but a conference table and 12 chairs," she said. Since she paid from her own private funds, she said, she deposited the check into her personal account, because she is not able to withdraw money from embassy accounts "without an act of congress," she said. "He never asked for a receipt. It is very easy to give a receipt. I had no reason to withhold a receipt," she said.

THE FOREIGN Ministry is not the only body to receive complaints about De Perio-Santos's behavior. An Interior Ministry source said Reiss was supposed to attend a meeting with the ambassador on the matter of issuing visas to Filipino workers.

"Mr. Reiss was advised by an Interior official not to attend the meeting with the ambassador," said the source. "He was told:



De Perio-Santos: She came here in 1993, four years after allegedly committing irregularities as Filipino representative to the UN in Switzerland. (Brian Hendler)

"She has diplomatic immunity - you don't."

About 7,000 of the estimated 10,000 Philippine nationals here are illegal - working without work permits or visas, according to the Interior Ministry. Many have been here for years; most work as caregivers or maids. Compared to Arab countries, where they earn an average of around \$200 monthly, here they can earn up to four times that.

People in the employment-agency business say Israel has become a very lucrative market for them.

Jaime Zarraga is the president of the United Effort Manpower and General Services, which recruits labor in the Philippines to be sent abroad. He too has realized the lucrative potential of the market here. Zarraga has been in Israel since March, living at a five-star hotel in Tel Aviv, and says he has been promised help by the ambassador to expedite visas with the Interior Ministry.

According to a letter written by a Filipino lawyer, Cita Borromeo-Garcia to Felisimo Josen, an administrator in the Philippine Ministry of Labor, Zarraga has collected up to 60,000 pesos (nearly \$3,000) per person from Filipinos waiting to come here.

The legal amount that may be collected by a recruitment agency is 3,000 pesos per person.

So far, because of Interior Ministry regulations, Zarraga has been allowed to bring in only 15 of 110 workers, and, sources say, he is furious with the ambassador

because she cannot "deliver the goods." He has had to reimburse potential workers who are unable to get visas here.

On his third visit here, Zarraga employed Bill Kardema as his marketing manager here. "The ambassador introduced us in the Philippines," he said. "She didn't tell me who he was."

But Kardema, the former Philippine consul-general here who was recalled in 1991 because of alleged illegal recruitment activities, is persona non grata.

An Interior Ministry source also confirmed that the ambassador's connection to Zarraga and recruitment of workers is also being examined.

In a letter to Zarraga, the ambassador said assurances were given to the embassy in the past that Filipino labor may enter Israel, but "based on consultations with Israeli officials it appears that derogatory information against your company have mitigated against the goodwill already created by the embassy."

She added: "I suggest your company do its utmost to clear its name as well as that of its officers."

Zarraga's name, however, has not deterred De Perio-Santos from doing favors for him or from being seen with him in public, or from lending him her car - complete with its diplomatic license plates.

Of her relationship with Zarraga, De Perio-Santos says she "makes it a point as ambassador here to get to know all Philippine recruiters."

"I want to monitor their activities," she added. But "as far as making friends, that is my business."

Speaking of business, last February, according to three sources, during a visit to Manila De Perio-Santos sold gold and diamond jewelry (at a 100 percent profit). The jewelry, which she bought from a diamond dealer here, was sold to Zarraga and others.

Zarraga showed friends check stubs for sums he said he paid her. Exporting gold jewelry and over five carats of unset diamonds for sale at a profit is not an offense, but nor is it regarded as appropriate behavior for an ambassador.

De Perio-Santos denied making any commercial deal, although sources contacted by the *Post* said they witnessed such transactions.

"I am not in the business of buying and selling jewelry," she

said. "My business, if you want to know, is buying old property - I made a small fortune from that."

PURCHASE OF a new embassy vehicle also raised questions of propriety. About two months ago she traded in a 1993 model Mercedes for a new tax-free Mercedes at Auto Hen, a Tel Aviv company owned by Dudi Pinson. After much bargaining and bickering over the price, Pinson paid her the \$5,000 difference owed to her because of customs regulations. She tried to insist on receiving cash.

Pinson, who sources said was "very angry" with De Perio-Santos, would not say how much he paid her. "But now the problem has been solved," he said.

However, "the problem" was solved only last Friday after De Perio-Santos was told by Pinson that *The Post* was interested in her activities.

Last Friday, around two months after the car deal, she gave an embassy worker \$5,000 to deposit in the embassy account and asked him to issue a receipt to send to Pinson.

"There are times when we are delayed... because we are very busy," she explained.

In June a group calling itself "Concerned Citizens" wrote a letter to the ambassador questioning donations to a show at Jaffa's Noga Theater. The show was sponsored by - Zarraga.

The ambassador received 300 tickets to distribute and another 500 were sold to members of the Philippine community. The performance, according to the ticket, was a benefit show.

"Benefit for whom?" wrote Concerned Citizens. "And where did the donations go?" The ambassador has not answered this letter.

Zarraga also sponsored a group of 38 singers who came here for Philippine Independence Day on June 12, at a function held by the embassy, at a cost of thousands of dollars.

"I am a businessman," he said. "I expected favors in return. The ambassador has let me down."

He also accused De Perio-Santos of "cheating him" regarding plane tickets.

"At first there were supposed to be 10 plane tickets," he said. "Then later the numbers increased to 38. She promised to reimburse me, saying that other businessmen had contributed towards the costs too. But she failed to keep her promise."

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DRIVE CAREFULLY

When the devil rides in – on a wave of publicity

A possible connection between the murder of a Rehovot youth and a satanic cult has shaken the public, but police insist that devil worship is just a marginal phenomenon. **Liat Collins reports**

A murdered teenager, satanic graffiti and talk of cult worship left a sharp impression on the country's psyche this week. All of a sudden the devil had come to town – at least in newspaper headlines.

It was the murder of Rehovot teenager Amit Molcho, whose body was found on June 20, that forced the subject onto the public agenda.

Police investigating the case are holding a 17-year-old suspect believed to be involved in a satanic cult. Molcho, 16, was stabbed more than 20 times and left in a field close to his home. Near the body was an abandoned shack whose walls were covered with satanic graffiti including a five-pointed star, a symbol related to devil worship.

Although police first said that the murder was committed during an argument over a bicycle the suspect believed Molcho had stolen from him, they later admitted that the slaying might have been part of a devil-worship rite.

If so, it would be the only known incident of a human sacrifice during devil worship in Israel.

It was a series of cases of animal abuse, abduction and killing which led local animal-welfare groups to start investigating the cults more than a year ago.

There are some 50 to 60 suspected satanic cults all over the country, according to Tamara Mor, a representative of the Lev LeChai animal welfare group which has been actively investigating the cults and taking evidence from teenagers.

"We have built up a profile of cult members," says Mor. "In most of the groups we've heard of, there are fewer than 10 members, although there was a much larger group in the Haifa bayside area. The members are usually from well-off families. Boys far outnumber the girls and the average age is 15. We have heard of soldiers also being involved, but have no evidence that such cults operate in the army. The top age seems to be 21."

Mor's group suspects that cult sacrifices and animal abuse are being carried out in some of the most prestigious residential areas in the country, including Savoyon, Herzliya Pituah, and good Haifa and Jerusalem neighborhoods.

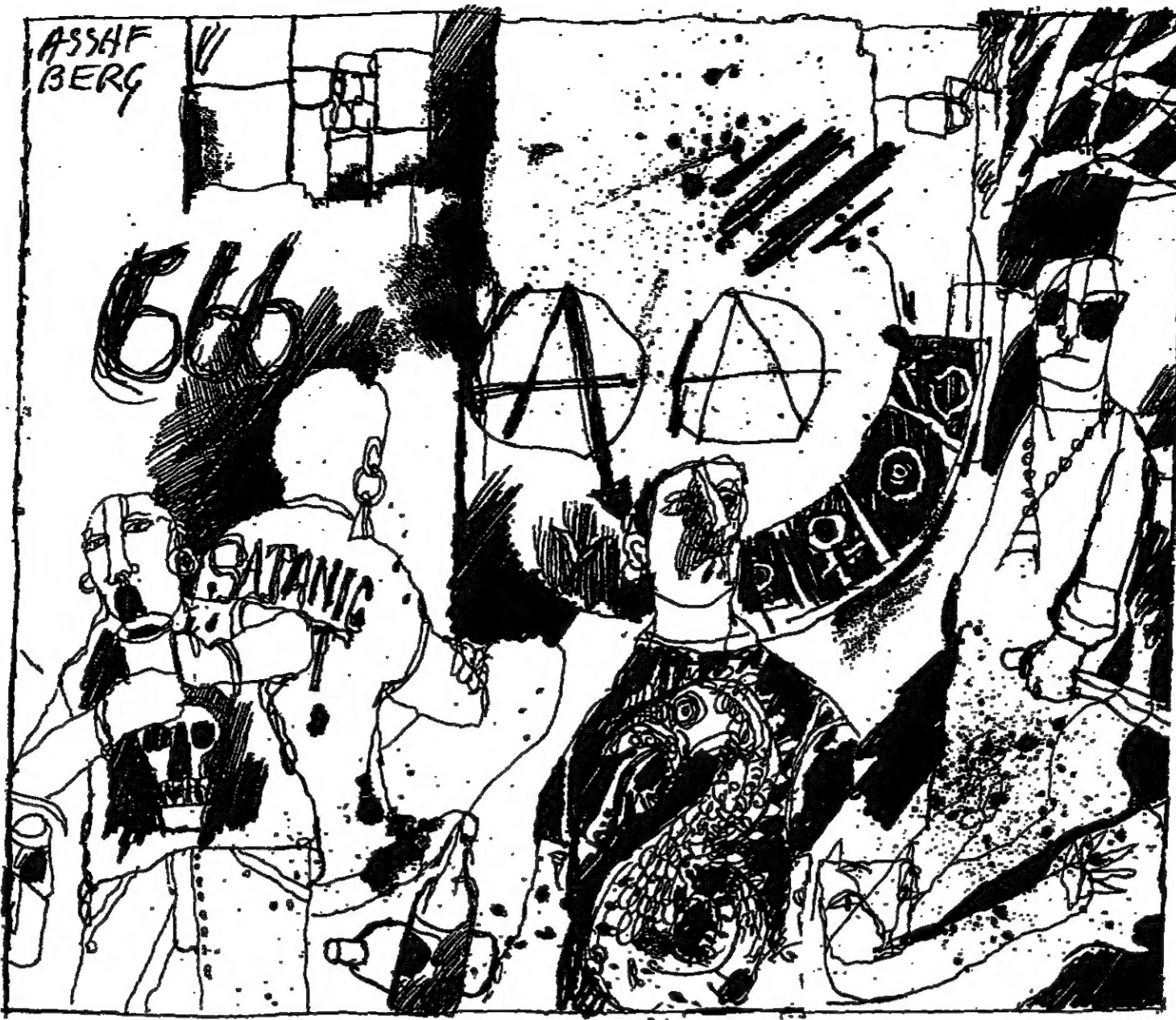
In Savoyon three black cats were stolen from homes whose walls were daubed with satanic graffiti. "As a rule, it happens more in affluent areas. It's quite sophisticated. In lower-class areas animal abuse is cruel but simple; this is elaborate and well planned," she says.

"In most cases the children are bored and invent the cult for themselves with very little knowledge other than that the symbol of devil worshipers is a five-pointed star, they have to smear blood, meet when the moon is full and sacrifice animals – particularly black cats," Mor says. There does not seem to be contact between the different groups.

TAL, A teenaged former cult member, cried and shook uncontrollably as he told his experiences on Israel Television this week.

"The group usually meets Fridays at midnight," he said. "A group of youths get together and simply..." he was unable to finish the sentence. "Once they took a cat, slaughtered it, poured the blood into a bowl and drank it," he recalled.

Tal told of cult members having orgies, sex on top of graves and dancing around cemeteries.



The group usually meets in the local cemetery but also in orchards and deserted buildings, he said.

According to Tal, many of the members are children who have run away from home or have family problems. "They say they want to kill their parents. For the devil, they're prepared to do anything."

Fear is a strong element in the group's hold over its members. They are bound to secrecy. Youths close to the Molcho case have also told police that the bicycle pretext for the murder was used by the suspect who feared revealing his membership in the

cult. Several cases of teenage suicide seem to be related to cult membership.

Mor notes that the cult members can be divided into "leaders" – whom she calls "purely sadistic" – and the "led." The cults hold initiation rites nearly always involving killing an animal and drinking the blood or smearing the innards on a naked body.

A teenager told reporters this week: "They take the animals, light a fire and throw them in or, you know, abuse them a bit." Another, who is a friend of a cult member but does not participate, said: "I don't know much. I know they have a meeting in Tel Aviv

once a month in a club. To join you must sleep with Ba'al – no one knows his name."

Some youths apparently get ideas and hold discussions on satanism and the meaning of evil via Internet.

The father of a teenage boy who committed suicide, apparently partly because of the influence of a cult, warns: "Kids keep it to themselves. But we're just fooling ourselves when we say it's not going on here."

Police Minister Moshe Shabai told the Knesset on Wednesday that the subject has high priority with the police. "But we're talking about a marginal phenom-

non. We have the addresses of cult members in Israel, but there has been no reason for police intervention." He added that three years ago scores of youths belonging to the cult planned a mass suicide but pulled out at the last minute. He noted that the police have a special desk to deal with the subject after a report by former deputy education minister Miriam Glazer-Ta'asa.

Dr. Bernie Stein, the Education Ministry's chief psychologist, also says the issue has been blown up out of all proportion. "Although we have difficulty getting all the figures the numbers are low; certainly there is no reason

to panic. The cults attract kids with problems looking for a framework, kids who feel no one loves them. It's like a hole that they fall into."

He says the ministry has the tools to help the children as long as cases are referred to them. "There's a tendency to deal more with the cults and less with the youths themselves," he says. The signs are often the same as for a potential suicide – "being withdrawn and acting weird, out of the ordinary." A passion for rock and heavy-metal music does not indicate a pathological problem, Stein says, although it often attracts the seriously disturbed.

BEING A cult member is not illegal, but sex with a minor, animal abuse and sexual molestation, which go hand in hand with devil worship, are. These can lead to prosecution, says Stein. "But it should be realized that in most cases these are not criminals, just teenagers looking for a means of revenge or a sense of power. In most cases they grow up, go into the army and become ordinary citizens."

Stein, who attended meetings of an inter-ministerial committee on cults, notes that even the FBI does not have documented evidence of human sacrifice, despite rumors to the contrary.

Mor says last month a teacher who heard of a cult group in his school consulted with her but refused to go to the police once he learned that in Israel all known cases of ritual sacrifice so far have involved loss of animal, not human, life. Apparently he was afraid of harming the school's reputation.

Stein admits that this could occur again, but says most schools comply with ministry regulations and to report suspected drug use, sexual or physical abuse among their students, activities related to satanic cults.

He urges concerned teachers and parents to refer to the ministry, noting there is a hotline for such problems.

"These youths can be saved. We have the means. They just need attention," he says.

A distraught Tal concurs: "I'm very grateful for being rescued from the cult. The members can be saved. I'm crying because I'm so sorry for what I did."

The 'packaging' of Kiryat Arba: Image is everything

A contender for the top post in the Kiryat Arba local council says lines of communication with the government should be kept open, **Herb Keinson writes**

KIRYAT Arba is an image-maker's nightmare.

Mention the settlement to most people inside the Green Line and the image conjured up is one of gun-toting, wild-eyed fanatics. Hear Kiryat Arba, think Kach. Hear Kiryat Arba, think Baruch Goldstein. Hear Kiryat Arba, think Jewish terror.

With a plaza around Goldstein's grave and a park named for Rabbi Meir Kahane, Kiryat Arba – more than any other place in the country – is associated with Jewish extremism.

But Uzi Cohen, a 39-year-old father of five and 17-year veteran

of the community, says the image is grossly unfair. To change it, Cohen is not launching a slick, multimillion dollar public relations campaign, but rather challenging Kiryat Arba local council head Zvi Katzover in elections Wednesday.

In addition to Cohen's list, two other parties – including a Russian immigrant list – are competing for the leadership of the council, and for its nine seats. A fifth list, made up of former Kach activists, including Baruch Marzel and Noam Federman, was disqualified from running by the Jerusalem District Court, which

ruled that it is merely an extension of the outlawed Kach party.

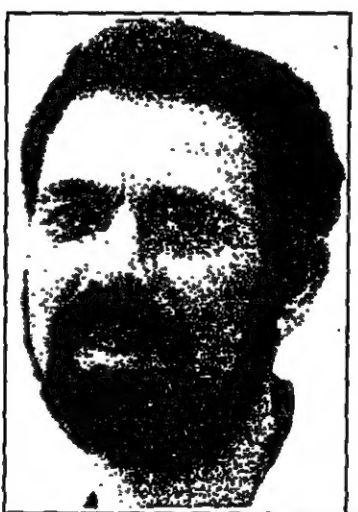
Though Katzover, 52, is expected to win the race, Cohen's list – Oz Ve'emuna – has piqued interest because it is considered to represent a "moderate" alternative to Katzover's hard-line, anti-government stance. Nominally affiliated with the National Religious Party, Oz Ve'emuna is the only real contender against Katzover, who is running on an independent ticket but belongs to the Likud party.

COHEN'S PROFFERED aim is to show the nation that Kiryat Arba's 6,000 residents are not "just a bunch of nuts," but rather regular citizens who work, worry about their children, and try to make ends meet.

The thrust of Oz Ve'emuna's message is that the current leadership, with its us-against-the-world attitude, is responsible for the settlement's poor image, and therefore needs to be replaced. "Kiryat Arba needs better



Kiryat Arba's local council head Zvi Katzover (left) faces a challenge from veteran settler Uzi Cohen, who wants to change the town's 'Jewish extremist' image. (Brian Handler)



public relations," said Cohen, manager of public services in the neighboring Hebron Hills Regional Council. "There is much we could do. I have a problem with how we are being represented. It is possible to represent our concerns in a way that does not pit us against everybody else."

Cohen's argument with Katzover is less about content than about style. He agrees with the

incumbent's hard-line political stance – better security, more development, inalienable Jewish rights in the area. What he questions is the way these interests are being presented.

"I would keep all lines of communication open," Cohen said, referring to Katzover's refusal a few months ago to meet Prime Minister Rabin because the premier would go only to the civil

administration office in Hebron, and not to Kiryat Arba.

"I would have met him, I would try to keep doors open," Cohen said.

Kiryat Arba is a community that feels itself very much under siege – by the world, the government, the media. Residents are wary of speaking negatively about the settlement or its leadership, because they are afraid this will be picked up and used by those who want to weaken the community. Indeed, neither Katzover nor Cohen would level criticism at the other.

The one exception, as far as Cohen is concerned, is his rival's relations with Kach. "Zvi is wary of Kach," Cohen said. "He is afraid of them, does not stand up to them because he is concerned they will interfere with what he is trying to do. In many of his decisions, he is worried about what they [Kach activists] will say, how they will react."

Katzover, who settled in Kiryat Arba in 1971, denied he has trouble talking with the necessary authorities. In fact, he said that with the exception of Meretz ministers Yair Tzaban, Shulamit Aloni and Yossi Sarid, Kiryat Arba has good relations with all the government. He also said

relations with OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Baran, with whom he exchanged angry words earlier in the year, are "excellent."

Regarding the settlement's image, Katzover said: "Our image is a result of our being next to a large, zealous Arab town. Two terms ago we had a local council head who was a super-dove. But that didn't change anything. The image is already fixed."

Pausing for a minute, Katzover added he didn't think the image was even all that bad. "We transmit strength, resolve, standing, firm. This is not a bad image, but a good one. You can't call us extremists. We have demonstrated great restraint. People in other cities would not have shown similar restraint if they had gone through what we have to go through every day." In fact, Katzover said, he is in favor of "more activism, more demonstrations, more going out to the streets. We can't just sit back and pretend that nothing is happening."

Cohen agrees with Katzover about the need for more activism. The question he is placing before the settlement's 3,100 eligible voters concerns how this activism – and indeed the settlement – should be packaged.

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Mubarak on a powder keg

This week's attack on the Egyptian president was only one of several recent attempts to assassinate him, Steve Rodan writes

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak looked down the barrel of an assassin's gun and lived to shrug off the incident. Diplomats and other Egypt-watchers are not so sanguine.

Western intelligence sources, particularly those in London and Washington, feel Mubarak's days are numbered. Their scenario is that the Algerian regime will fall, to be followed soon afterwards by the government in Egypt.

This week, some of these sources raised the possibility that it could be the other way around.

Diplomats and Western intelligence sources have formed two diverging views on the assassination attempt.

The minority assessment is that the assassins knew they had no chance of killing Mubarak on Monday as his motorcade headed from Addis Ababa's airport to a summit of African heads of state. Mubarak was unharmed and immediately returned to Cairo. The assassins would have had even less chance of success in Egypt, where security is extremely tight.

By attacking him in chaotic Ethiopia, however, the Islamic opposition proved that the president is still vulnerable.

The majority view is that Mubarak has been in the gun sights of Islamic assassins for a while. Intelligence sources say the Egyptian president has escaped several attempts to kill him over the past year - both in Egypt and abroad.

"I think the operation represented a step up in sophistication," says Yoram Meital, a Ben-Gurion University expert on Egypt, referring to Monday's attack. "Despite its failure, the attempt has provided real encouragement to other militant groups to think that next time their assassination attempt could work."

The French publication *Issues* reported that, in the first three weeks of January, Islamic extremists tried three times to kill Mubarak. Egyptian authorities managed to foil the attempts and conceal their occurrence.

Western security sources say Islamic extremists planned to kill Mubarak during his three-day visit to Rome in November. Italian authorities learned of the plot and warned Mubarak, who changed his schedule.

Italian police later arrested about a dozen people, all but one of them Egyptians connected with an Islamic cultural center in Milan. The director of the center, Imam Anwar Shabaan, fled.

A subsequent investigation determined that the Islamic network based in Rome numbered at least 72 people and involved such groups as Islamic Jihad and the Gamaat Islamiya. The network was said to have had close contact with terror groups in Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, France, Afghanistan, Germany and Austria.

In this week's attack in Addis Ababa, intelligence sources say, the Islamic attackers displayed a high degree of sophistication. Their intelligence on Mubarak's arrival and route was exact, indicating they had good connections with Ethiopian officials. Diplomatic sources add that Ethiopian police later found a car bomb loaded with hundreds of kilograms of explosives, which was presumably meant to detonate as Mubarak's motorcade passed.

In addition, Ethiopian authorities found a large amount of ammunition, as well as Kalashnikovs, grenades and rocket-propelled grenades in the apartment where the assassination team was hiding out, suggesting the extent of the logistical help it received.

Egypt's leading newspaper, *Al-Ahram*, reported that the Gamaat and a splinter



An Egyptian woman cries as she cheers President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday, following his safe return from Addis Ababa; leading Egyptians are urging Mubarak to appoint a vice president, something he has refused to do. (AP)

group, Taala al-Fatah, were behind the attack.

SOME LEADING Egyptians are urging Mubarak to learn some lessons from the assassination attempt. One is that he should appoint a vice president, something he has refused to do since he was raised from vice president to president after the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981.

"Egyptians feel that it is now time that the president think seriously about a number of things," says Saad Eddin Ibrahim, chairman of the Ibn Khaldoun Center for Development Studies, a leading Egyptian think tank. "One of them is a vice president. The presence of a vice president gives him psychological security."

Ibrahim says Mubarak must also fight Islamic extremism. "There are different schools of thought," he says. "One has to do with increasing security measures, which may involve preemptive action in Sudan or Iran."

Western diplomats say that is already happening. On Wednesday, Egyptian and Sudanese troops clashed along their disputed border. The shootout took place a day after Cairo accused Sudan of being involved in the assassination attempt

against Mubarak, who has called for the overthrow of the regime in Khartoum.

Ibrahim, however, prefers another approach, which he says is more popular among Egyptian intellectuals. "The president should engage in more forceful social and economic political reform," he says.

So far, however, the opposite has been the case. Mubarak's regime has curtailed civil liberties by banning union and other unofficial gatherings, presenting a bill that would jail reporters convicted of defaming government officials, and jailing thousands of suspected Islamic activists without pressing charges.

Ibrahim says the measures have merely undermined support for the regime, which following the assassination attempt organized large demonstrations in support of Mubarak. "The regime has proven its utter stupidity regarding the reform of civil society," he says.

Ben-Gurion University's Meital says Mubarak is willing to risk growing discontent over his current crackdown. With parliamentary elections set for the fall, Mubarak does not want to take the chance that the media will lead to the defeat of his ruling National Democratic Party, many of whose members have been accused in both

the government and opposition press of being corrupt.

"Mubarak is feeling tremendous pressure from both within and outside the regime," Meital says. "We have seen a regression of democracy since the Gulf war."

If Mubarak is killed, will the Islamics take over? Many Egyptian intellectuals, who are warning of the creeping influence of Islamists in the army, judiciary and bureaucracy, say the answer is certainly yes.

Some Western diplomats say Mubarak is already having difficulty dealing with a restless corps of young army officers who resent the large US presence in the Egyptian military and the restrictions of a demilitarized Sinai Peninsula, a key clause in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Many intelligence analysts both in Israel and in the West disagree.

Ya'acov Perry, who recently retired as the long-time chief of the General Security Service, says Mubarak's death would produce another Egyptian leader just as friendly to the West, particularly the United States.

"Even if it [the assassination attempt] had ended differently," Perry says, "I don't think there would have been a coup, or a change in policy."

Just one hot Saturday

The date set for redeployment of Israeli troops in the territories will mark a change, but not the one expected, Alon Pinkas reports

TOMORROW will be very hot. That's how the first Saturday in July usually is.

Aside from that predictable forecast, tomorrow will be marked by Israelis and Palestinians as the Day Nothing Happened. Months ago the day was set as a deadline for Israeli redeployment - or pre-redeployment, as Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin refers to it - of army units outside major Palestinian cities and towns throughout the West Bank.

An Israeli-Palestinian agreement on at least the first phase of redeployment, which will include the IDF's withdrawal from the city limits of four cities in Samaria (Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm and Kalkilya), will most probably be signed some time in the first half of July.

According to the Oslo Declaration of Principles, withdrawal is a prerequisite of democratic elections for the Palestinian Council.

Israel hopes the first phase of redeployment will satisfy that provision and enable the Palestinian Authority to hold the internationally monitored elections, which Palestinian negotiators expect to be held no more than 25 days after the initial redeployment. The largest remaining obstacle is the scale of redeployment.

"Elections are not merely a symbol of sovereignty for the Palestinians. They are also a show of strength for Arafat, which he will use as proof that Oslo achieved something for the Palestinians."

More importantly, they will serve as the first real indication of the amount of support that Hamas has," says a senior army officer.

The agreement was delayed because of a prolonged hiatus in negotiations caused by terror emanating from Gaza.

If Hamas and the Islamic Jihad launch a wave of terror, a prospect that security officials in Israel anticipate as a display of dissatisfaction with the elusive deadline and as a political reminder to Palestinians of the PA's shortcomings, redeployment will be postponed again.

BUT THE missed deadline does not change or in any way affect the IDF's plans for redeployment in November, according to army sources. Israel's concept of redeployment, a NIS 1.5 billion plan called Rainbow-2 was formulated by a joint team of officers from Central Command, the Planning Branch and the Logistics Branch and the coordinator of activities in the territories.

Basically, it divides the West Bank into geographic areas distinguished from each other by the degree of control Israel retains and the type of powers transferred to the Palestinians.

Area A consists of Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm and Kalkilya. Jenin is expected to be evacuated first, but even that, army sources say, will not be done before November.

"The biggest problem we have is completing the Jenin bypass that would provide Eilon Moreh with an access road. The cost is NIS 15 million," says a Central Command officer in the Jenin area.

In all four cities, Israel will transfer full authority to the Palestinians. Palestinian Police officials said this week they are ready to assume responsibility over security in these cities immediately.

"Around these cities we are

constructing bypass roads. In addition, army units will move into relocated basic training bases and will be deployed along the outer perimeters of the cities, as well as around settlements," says a senior Logistics Branch officer.

Area B includes cities like Ramallah, El-Bireh, and large towns and villages such as Tubas, Kabatiya and Beit Furik. In this area Israel will transfer to the Palestinians only civilian powers and retain all authority concerning security.

"This is an area in which either we insist on controlling roads, or where settlements and Palestinian villages are geographically entwined to the extent that we cannot afford to relinquish control of security," the officer explains.

In Area C, where most of the settlers live (Ariel and Gush Etzion, for example), Israel insists on retaining full control of every domain.

This area constitutes about 11 per cent of the West Bank in which roughly 70 per cent of the settlers live.

In a category of its own stands Hebron, a city considered by both the political and military echelons as so politically and demographically complex and explosive that Israel at this point refuses even to discuss its inclusion in any redeployment agreement.

THROUGHOUT this week Israeli and Palestinian negotiators raced against time in a vain attempt to give some credibility to the July 1 deadline and conclude at least an agreement on the powers to be transferred to the PA.

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour says the talks focused on eight spheres of local administration: local government, insurance, agriculture, petrol and gas, postal services, electricity, telecommunications and public works.

"We are in the final stages of most of the eight spheres. We have been promised by the Israelis that we will finish the eight before July 1," says Jamil Tarifi skeptically. He is the PA's negotiator in Cairo.

"Essentially we have agreed on the transfer of these responsibilities and powers," says a Civil Administration officer. However, he stresses, the issue of Israel's control of water is still unresolved. Israel gets 30 percent of its water from aquifers located east of the Green Line.

As far as the army is concerned, water may very well prove to be one of the most critical problems, but it is not the most immediate problem.

"Our responsibility is security. In this respect, getting out of the Nablus casbah does not compromise our security. But even if the Palestinian Police performs impeccably in these four cities, responsibility for the safety of settlers is ours."

"We have said before that ensuring the security of all settlers moving around the roads is difficult," says a General Staff officer. "I cannot say that they are cooperating with us. I do not question the legitimacy of their protests, and I can understand their ideological predicament. Still, they make our life hard. It is difficult enough to devise a security plan for such a large area and build the necessary infrastructure. And I haven't even begun to talk about the problems we expect once redeployment is implemented."

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The Jewish Agency's 'significant other'

Charles Goodman is expected to rule as chairman of the board with wit, an easy demeanor — and a legendary knack for finance, Winston Pickett reports

WITH sandy brown hair and classic button-down shirt and business suit, he's easy to miss in a crowd. Even in person he is quiet and unassuming, showing occasional flashes of self-deprecating wit. From the podium he likes to read from a prepared text.

Appearances, however, are deceptive. He is Charles "Corky" Goodman, the new chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency. And despite the inevitable comparisons to Abraham Burg, the equally new chairman of the Jewish Agency/World Zionist Organization — those who know Goodman use terms like "financial wizard" and "consensus builder," and say he's every inch Burg's equal.

"Corky is a very bright man, very bright," says Mendel Kaplan, who just stepped down from the chairman's post after eight years. "The link between the brain and the tongue may not be the same as Burg's, but his inner ability is faster than most people I know, and in certain areas, faster than Avrum's."

Anecdotes about Goodman's financial acumen and singleness of purpose abound. Like the one where he allegedly sat at a board meeting adding up a row of figures on a three-inch square of paper. Suddenly he got up, made a telephone call and returned to the table \$2 million richer. Or the time, as chief financial officer of Henry Crown and Company, the primary shareholder of General Dynamics, he walked into a board meeting and 20 minutes later walked out leaving the over-extended company with 15,000 fewer employees.

Those familiar with the 62-year-old Goodman and the job he is walking into say he will need those qualities — and more. According to Jewish Agency secretary-general Howard Weisband, the board Goodman was formally elected to on Thursday is like no other in the corporate or philanthropic world. Its officers are Diaspora leaders living abroad, assigned the task of overseeing and managing an organization run by professionals working thousands

of kilometers away — in Jerusalem.

Goodman has spent most of his Jewish organizational life in the US, rising to president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago (1984-85) and chairman of the Council of Jewish Federations (1990-93). A self-described "classically raised Reform Jew," he has no plans to move to Israel or buy an apartment here. "Up to this point," says the Chicago native, "my responsibilities are such that serious consideration of living in Israel is not likely to be part of my life."

Yet he is no stranger to the country. He first visited Israel with his wife and children as a tourist in 1976 and then several times a year as chairman of the board of Ashdod-based Sunfrost Foods between 1970 and 1990.

Those who have worked closely with Goodman over the years say his quiet, no-nonsense, nuts-and-bolts professionalism will serve him well as he begins the chairmanship of an organization starting down a projected \$80 million cash shortfall in the months ahead, and an institution that is struggling to reshape its identity to fit the demands of the next century.

Some Agency insiders wonder if, given his ties to the American side of the fund-raising pipeline, Goodman can now concentrate exclusively on the Israeli end. Asked one insider: "Can he truly be an advocate for the Jewish Agency... and occasionally be at odds with the Israeli government?"

And then there is the fund-raising side of Goodman's new post. An understated man, he follows in the footsteps of Kaplan, who is loquacious, speaks Yiddish and quotes the Gemara, is urbane and polished on the stump. "I've never known a federation president who didn't know how to raise funds," said Shoshana Cardin, president of the United Israel Appeal and former president of the CJF. "He can be very effective one on one."

IT IS ONLY in intimate settings



Goodman: Yossi Beilin doesn't have to take our charity. We'll make sure that the people who need our help get it, whether in Israel, the CIS, Ethiopia, Romania or Argentina. (Joe Malachuk)

that Goodman's personality and compassion seem to pierce through the soft-spoken voice, with its slight Midwestern twang that can attenuate into a mumble.

One also catches glimpses of a man who can be alternately ironic and mockingly self-critical. When asked, for example, why he chose to take the job, he replies with an oblique grin, "I ask myself that question. Over and over again."

In another moment he shows impatience and even irritation when asked if Americans might

decide to give less to Israel after listening to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's oft-quoted "no thank-you" to Diaspora charity in light of Israel's robust economy.

"Yossi Beilin doesn't have to take our charity," retorts Goodman with an edge to his voice. "We'll still make sure that the people who need our help get it, whether in Israel or the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Romania or Argentina. I believe it is our responsibility to be prepared

to help them. I'm not ready to give up on that concept."

Moreover, Goodman repeatedly emphasizes, the money raised by the Jewish Agency is the connective tissue that "links millions of families of Jews around the world year after year."

But if the hidden compassion promises to be one key to Goodman's success, how is he expected to mesh with Burg's penchant for wanting to bring about change overnight and for leapingfrogging

over the sacred Jewish Agency process known as consensus? Said one Agency insider: "With Avrum, the concern was whether he could be a good inside man because everyone knew he was a good outside man. With Corky it is just the opposite."

For Cardin, the differences in personalities and working styles will work if Burg recognizes and follows Goodman's strengths. "What Corky can bring to this partnership is the ability to be incisive. He doesn't waste time, he knows how to move things to the center, but most importantly, he knows how to do it with the confidence of having consulted with others."

Otherwise Burg may find a steely resolve behind the quiet manner. "He's tough, very tough," says Kaplan.

Goodman's biggest enemy? According to Cardin it is the ticking clock of 1997, the date by which a restructured — some say merged — WZO/Jewish Agency needs to be in place and ready for the next century. By his own admission, however, it will likely be the political battles that will inevitably follow in its wake — battles that by Israeli standards make disputes within the UJA/CJF/JDC world look like a Viennese waltz.

Will Goodman be able to survive the same public condemnation that Kaplan faced recently when a government official declared him a liar? For his part, Kaplan thinks Goodman's persona and American citizenship will keep him above the fray. "I don't think he'll have the same kinds of problems I had. Israelis treat American Jewish leaders differently than non-American Jewish leaders, who for all intents and purposes are Israelis themselves."

Goodman's own analysis hints at how he might defuse a situation.

First: humor. When asked how he sees himself in the political realm, he quips, "Seriously at risk," adding: "It's not what I look forward to at all. It is not a very pleasant prospect."

But it comes with the territory. Jews have a way of shooting themselves in the foot. We often are our worst enemies. But by and large, we all have our eye focused on the same objective.

"The fact that we don't get the credit we deserve from time to time is part of the way business operates. I guess I wouldn't be here if I didn't know that. Or maybe I don't know it."

Then again, chances are that he does.

The brains behind a billion bucks

CHARLES Goodman was the brains behind the Council of Jewish Federations' unprecedented loan guarantee program that secured close to \$1 billion in low-interest loans for Russian immigration during the last five years.

Goodman, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate, is given credit for both its structure — based in many cases on the remortgaging of properties owned by the more than 175 Jewish federations in the US — and its implementation, in the form of persuading reluctant federation boards and Jewish communities that the plan would work.

In an interview Goodman said he hoped that the chief benefit of the program — which effectively developed into an ability by the newly powerful CJF to tax American Jewish communities for a common goal — could serve as a model for reinvigorating the Agency pipeline with cash.

"There are a number of different proposals," said Goodman, "whether it is getting federations to agree to incremental fund-raising, or some formula for sharing the financial burden that can go a long way toward helping the Jewish Agency gain some comfort in the security of its income."

Another goal is an effort to restore the proportion of dollars sent to Israel from monies raised during annual Jewish federation campaigns.

As little as 10 years ago, federations routinely sent 60 percent to Israel and kept 40 percent for domestic needs; now the numbers are reversed — a trend that in part accounts for a \$29 million shortfall — from \$230m. to \$201m. — during the 1993 campaign. "I'd like to see a return to the 50/50 split," he says.

But is that goal feasible given federal cutbacks in social programs in the US, forcing Jewish communities increasingly to take up the slack? Here Goodman seems to abandon his cool, rationalistic approach to say, "Israel is the greatest fundraising mechanism we have, because its needs are the most urgent."

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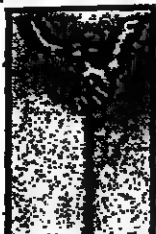
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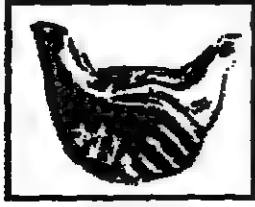
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Museum with soul An Egyptian editor responds

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

LAST week's 30th anniversary International Council meetings of the Israel Museum attracted some 500 participants from many different lands of life.

The meetings followed the museum's recently ended exhibition of "Princely Taste." This, the museum's first-ever exhibition of decorative art, was under the curatorship of Alex Gregory from New York. Gregory obtained works belonging to various Rothschilds, Prince Hans Adam II of Liechtenstein, Poland's Prince Adam Czartoryski de Borbon, Arthur Gilbert — a great collector of silver and golden snuff boxes — and various others.

All these people, together with blue bloods such as Germany's Baron Lorne Thyssen-Bornemisza came to the 30th anniversary conference. Others came to express their happiness that Israel is moving toward peace.

Also among the outstanding people who attended the week's events were a family who brought and installed a synagogue from Cochiti (one of the three Jewish centers in India), and a bibliophile who doesn't want his name mentioned, but called himself "The Friend of the Book," who loaned a number of exhibits to the "Princely Taste" show.

There was so much enthusiasm. Mr. Gilbert from Los Angeles, who had been deeply involved in the creation of a museum in Los Angeles, said: "There is a great difference between our museum and yours. Yours has heart and soul."

WE STARTED planning the museum in the late Fifties, despite government disapproval. Cabinet ministers such as Golda Meir said: "Why do you need this? Wait till we solve all our problems, then we'll have a museum."

But I believed that, if we did not act then, great art objects from collectors all over the world would go to other museums and the opportunity would be lost forever.

Then finance minister Levi Eshkol gave us the land, but we got no money from the government. The first financial support we obtained was from the US government, which had created a fund for various countries to subscribe

to American newspapers and films as a counter to Soviet influence.

THE EISENHOWER administration appointed a lawyer by the name of Katzen to come to Israel and decide where the money should go. Thus we got the first \$1.5 million for the museum. Then we started looking for money to build and for objects to exhibit.

When I was in Washington in the early 1950s, I had found it impossible to obtain paintings for our museum. Collectors would only give their paintings to top museums that provided the best conditions for their safekeeping. As long as we had no such building, there was no hope of receiving anything of value.

So I pressed for a museum suitable for exhibiting great works. But the people here who had any interest in a museum, such as Prof. Yigal Yadin, were only interested in archeology. Those were times of great archeological finds, which needed a place in which to be preserved.

We managed to attract some very generous contributions, particularly from the Bronfman family in Canada and from Billy Rose, who donated his collection of statues. So finally the museum came into being, though there was still apprehension in some quarters because it was only a few hundred meters from the frontier in a divided city.

We started out with a single curator, who was educated by Holland's Will Sandberg (who, incidentally, was labeled "Enemy No. 1" by the Gestapo during World War II because he was a hero of the underground). Sandberg set very high standards.

We had another piece of luck: Our first five great paintings were two Gauguins, two Van Goghs and a Cezanne from the London Rothschilds. This established a standard which we have always maintained.

Today's Israel Museum is much larger than we originally envisaged and receives close to a million visitors a year. This week's celebrations conveyed the feeling that in Israel we are now looking forward to peace and to a life of great culture and art, and not just self-preservation.

EDITOR and columnist of the Egyptian weekly *Al Nassar* Mahmoud Sa'adani, whose intemperate attack on *The Jerusalem Post* was the subject of an "Eye on the Media" column (April 20), has devoted his column of May 26 to a response.

As a Foreign Ministry official told me with a voice choking with excitement, "You have a dialogue going."

Sa'adani first translated much of the column, omitting parts he found embarrassing. The sentence "it is difficult to imagine anything so vulgar printed in a serious journal anywhere in the world" didn't make it.

He then proceeded to respond — not to specific charges, but to "the esteemed editor" in general. Writing with irony and heavy sarcasm, he insists again that the *Post* is a government organ, and that all its editor ("the Zionist brother") knows about Egypt is the "Mossad fantasies" he is fed.

These fantasies resemble the way "Europeans understand the African peoples. For these Europeans, Africa is made of jungles and rivers, and every African eats ice cream and likes to cook white men in vats, while drinking the soup and dancing around the fire. These Africans are loyal to no one except Tarzan and his Cheeta — the white superhero who imposes his justice and order on the continent."

The purpose of the article is only partly to poke fun at the Zionist brother's ignorance of Egypt, though considering the number of Israeli journalists and writers who have spent untold days and weeks in Egypt and the almost total boycott of Israel by Egyptian journalists, this is a rather strained bit of poking.

(Egypt's Press Syndicate — the journalists' guild — vehemently opposes normalization and rejects all formal meetings with Israelis. Most recently, Egyptian cartoonists refused to meet with Israeli counterparts who went to Cairo for a get-acquainted meeting.)

But what seems to bother Sa'adani more than my ignorance is my statement that he is a government appointee.

Sarcasmically, he states, "[The Israelis] know that the Egyptian press writes nothing but the opinions and thoughts of ministers, director generals, directors, governors, mayors, borough heads, chief engineers, etc., etc." while in reality, he says, he is nothing

but a humble employee who has never been forced on any employer [by the authorities]. For his articles in *Al Nassar*, he states, he does not even get paid.

It is difficult to tell whether Sa'adani really meant the column to be a dialogue — his tone is immeasurably mellow in this article, but his protestations of press independence in Egypt were cruelly vitiated a day after his column was published.

On May 27, in a special night session, the Egyptian parliament approved without debate or objections an amendment to the press law.

As *Al-Ahram* journalist Hani Shukrallah put it, the law "makes it possible, at least theoretically, to lock up a good number of journalists for some five years."

Its passage, Shukrallah says, is not exactly a surprise: "Over the past two or three years writers, journalists and artists have been exposed to an increasing barrage of attacks determined to set them straight on where their minds should not venture."

True, the very fact that an Egyptian journalist can protest against the law is an indication of at least some press freedom. Such protests could not have been voiced in Syria or virtually any other Arab state. But one can only wonder how long even this freedom will prevail.

The law stipulates that the publication of tendentious or false pronouncements, false rumors, incitement-creating propaganda and items which may harm public order and create panic, or slander state institutions or the officials who head them, will be considered felonies.

The law does not require proof of felonious intent. It is enough for the published material to be defined as harmful to get the writer incarcerated.

To their credit, most of Egypt's journalists have joined the protest against the new regulations. But a strike they threatened was aborted when Mubarak, who had initiated the law, promised to change it.

It would certainly be nice to see the law repealed, if for no other reason than that it would be a pity to see

Sa'adani go to prison for calling me Zionist brother, without quotation marks. Much milder expressions are known to have constituted incitement in neighboring countries.

"NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" REDUX

The *National Geographic* magazine's latest story on Israel, featured in the June issue, is called "Israel's Galilee." Compared with the June 1992 essay "Who are the Palestinians?" by Tad Szulc, one of the most offensive pieces of pseudoscientific, propagandistic rubbish ever published in a serious magazine ("Eye on the Media," June 19, 1992), the current piece is a model of scrupulous research.

The mistakes are relatively minor, and there are even statements which in the current politically correct ambience should be considered courageous.

For instance, in a supplementary picture-essay called "Satellite Revelations" — some breathtaking space-view photographs of the country (which the magazine is careful to call the Holy Land, since it includes not only Israel but Judea, Samaria and the Golan), the Temple Mount is described as "sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Here David's son Solomon built the temple to house the Ark of the Covenant."

Usually the Temple Mount's history is said to begin with the building of Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, and the area is described as "the third-holiest place to Islam," while it is the Western Wall rather than the Mount which is usually mentioned as the Jews' most sacred shrine.

But the main story is disappointing. Written by assistant editor Don Belt, it purports to describe the relationship between Jews and Arabs in Galilee following the car-bomb massacre in Afula. To Belt's credit, he refers to Israel's adversaries as "Arabs known as Palestinians."

But an asterisk then refers the reader to Szulc's article, which attempts to establish that the Palestinians are not really Arabs but descendants of the ancient, prebiblical local peoples.

Another kind of confusion is reflected in Belt's grappling with what should have been a simple answer to a simple

question. His little daughter asks "Was Jesus Jewish? I did my best to explain," he writes. One wonders what he felt compelled to explain.

But the main problem with the story, an exceptionally political essay for a geographic magazine, is that it portrays Galilee as a place where life is miserable ("all I ever seemed to hear were sad stories and the gnashing of teeth") and where the tensions between the Jewish haves and the Arab have-nots are on the brink of an explosion.

A letter sent by *Jerusalem Post* special-projects director Ramon Bernard to the magazine sums it up eloquently:

"As a long time *National Geographic* Magazine reader and a visitor to and resident of Israel's Galilee for some thirty years, I was thoroughly disappointed by your feature of June 1995. If I had written an article about the United States and the main features were the Oklahoma City bombing, the Los Angeles riots, Louis Farrakhan and the O.J. Simpson trial, you would have the right to feel like I do after reading that jaundiced piece."

"... Where is the real Galilee? Misgav, whose swimming pool and sports center, every day, sees Jews, and Arabs from Arrabe, Sahkkin and Deir Hanna, enjoying themselves. Where is the Arab village of Kaukab, which now has a growing tourist bed and breakfast industry whose customers are mostly Jews. Where is the six day dance festival of Karmiel with participants from all the different communities of the region or the music festival of Kibbutz Kfar Blum? But above all, where are the real photos of Galilee and not the pejorative ones you decided to use..."

"I went to a wedding in Moshav Yodfat some two years ago. The communal Jewish village is built on the site of the ancient Jewish village of Yodfat (read Josephus — the Jewish Wars) destroyed by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago and is today the site of a prosperous community, where Jews and Arabs from the surroundings work together. At the wedding, where a daughter of founders of the moshav married an Ethiopian immigrant, were some 300 people, Jews, Arabs, Ethiopian and Russian immigrants, Druse and Beduini. All communing together."

"What a pity your photographer wasn't there. Shame on you *National Geographic*, your prejudice is showing."

This 'courtesy call' wasn't courteous

CONTRARY TO what American oldtimers may think, an Irish bull is not a New York cop whose ancestors hailed from Erin. It is a patently absurd or incongruous statement, or one containing a contradiction of terms.

Absurdity: "X is a great film. Don't miss it if you can." Or: "Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres are very much alike, especially Rabin."

Contradiction: "It is hereditary in that family to have no children." Or: "Yasser Arafat is establishing a secular, democratic Palestinian state."

Several explanations are offered for the origin "Irish bull." Some refer to the Middle English verb "bull," to fool, cheat, and the Old French *bouler/bolier*, to deceive.

It is also suggested that it derives from the contradiction in the "papal bull" (from the Latin *bullo*, seal). In this official epistle bearing the papal seal, the pope, after asserting his authority, signs: "ABC, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God."

As for the "Irish" part, "bulling" is said to be a "proverbial" Irish habit.

(See *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, 14th edition, and Webster's Third New International Dictionary.)

WE HAVE just allowed an Irish bull to go.

I mean the June 19 visit of Ireland's Foreign Minister Dick Spring to the PLO den at Jerusalem's Orient House, despite requests by Rabin and Peres not to go there.

Spring had argued he was only going to make a "courtesy call." He then spent about 90 minutes at Orient House, talking politics with — or at least willingly hearing it from — Jerusalem-area members of the PLO general staff and of the "Palestinian opposition" whom local PLO chief Faisal Husseini had invited.

"Courtesy visit" it was indeed, and Spring certainly seems to have lavished courtesy on the Orient House cabal. For afterwards Husseini said the visit was "a victory for Orient House and

It surely was a victory for Orient House... It was also a "victory" for our capitulation process known as the "peace process."

Regarding Spring's official Israeli hosts, however, he compounded his courtesy by turning, or allowing the Husseini group to turn, the meeting into a blatantly political one.

David Kimche, chairman of

A VIEW FROM NOW MOSHE KOHN

the Israel Council on Foreign Relations and a former Foreign Ministry director-general, called Spring's action "a fiasco at Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem" (*Yediot Aharonot*, June 20).

Rabin and Peres, as usual, vented their wrath not on the dubious peace partners and the self-appointed mediator who showed us the fiasco, but on cabinet colleagues and other Jews who had sought to prevent the humiliation.

Two days before Spring's Orient House hop, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, usually an eloquent apologist for Peres-Rabin policies, had recommended that the government boycott the Irish statesman's visit in Israel.

At the cabinet meeting the next day, Peres huffed at Shahal: "As of now, I'm not aware that Foreign Ministry matters are within your purview."

Rabin supported Peres. The next day, outside Orient House where Spring was showing us his fiasco, Shahal's police once more showed their mettle as they wielded their muscles and strangleholds against some Women for Israel's Tomorrow (Women in Green) demonstrators.

PERES'S JAB at Shahal sheds an interesting light on his concept of democracy: a minister is not to comment, let alone vote, on matters "outside his purview."

Then we lay persons, whom the cabinet has not endowed with any official purviews (except to pay taxes), may not express our views on any matter of state.

Meanwhile, we still possess the power to unseat this government of capitulation.

PERES'S APPROACH has not prevented him from repeatedly venturing into areas that are not within his purview, or even within his ken.

I refer to his repeated displays

of ignorance (which I have noted several times in recent years) in the areas of Jewish philosophy, history and tradition, even regarding the histories of Eretz Yisrael and the Zionist movement. And notwithstanding all the reading he boasts of in interviews and autobiographies, he has even shown himself weak regarding "the national epic of Britain" (Thomas Huxley), i.e. the Bible, of which there is a splendid Hebrew version.

In his ignorance combined with a penchant for not checking sources, Peres recently came up with a post-Zionist, post-Jewish solution to a problem that occupied halachic authorities already in talmudic times: the question of the borders of the Holy Land.

For Peres, who recently declared himself "a Bavarian," the Holy Land is simply "Eretz Yisrael in its changing borders."

Accordingly, Jerusalem of the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Mount of Olives, the scores of synagogues and yeshivot which the Jordanians destroyed or desecrated when they occupied the area between 1948 and 1967 — that sector of Jerusalem was not part of the Holy Land for those 19 years.

Also, no part of the country was Holy Land between 135 CE, when Hadrian crushed the Bar Kochba Revolt, and 1948, when part of Eretz Yisrael was restored to Jewish national sovereignty. And if the Rabin/Peres/Beilin team have their way, Hebron, city of our Patriarchs and Patriarchs, will be removed from the Holy Land when they hand it over to the PLO.

In fact, they have been derogating the importance of territory altogether in what they seek to persuade us is this post-modern, New Middle Eastern New Age.

Only the Green Line is holy. But as noted above, we still have the power to unseat them.

(With thanks to Dr. Aaron Lerner of Ra'anana, associate director of IMRA/Independent Media Review & Analysis.)



How Moses' miracle became a tragedy

SHABBAT, SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

"And Moses lifted up his hand, and smote the rock with his rod twice; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their cattle.... And the Lord said: 'You did not have faith in me... you [Moses] shall not bring this assembly to the land.'" (Ex. 20:11,12)

THIS week's portion of *Hekhal* tells a tale of two miracles, both revolving around water. The first leads to life and the second to death; the first is a promise of redemption and the second is a prophecy of doom.

What is the Bible trying to teach us with such an obvious contrast? Let us begin with the second miracle. The people have begun to complain and demonstrate against Moses and Aaron, once again whining about being brought to the desert to die. "Why did you bring the congregation to the desert... to die...? It is no place of seed, of figs, grapes, pomegranates... not even any water..." (Num. 20:4-5)

God commands Moses to take his staff, gather the people, and speak to the rock in their presence. What subsequently happens can be said to be seen as the turning point in Moses' life. Instead of speaking to the rock in the people's presence, he speaks to them in the rock's presence: "Hear now, you rebels! Are we

to bring forth water from out of this rock?" (Num. 20:10)

Moses then strikes the rock twice, and water gushes forth — an amazing miracle, you would think, bringing joy and exultation to all.

Not quite. God is so vexed with Moses that He declares: "You did not have faith in Me to sanctify Me in the presence of the Israelites. Therefore you shall not bring this assembly to the land that I have given you." (Num. 20:12)

The sight of a rock gushing with fresh water should be enough to make the most stoic of creatures tremble. And if a leader chooses a particular rock, stands before it, lowers his staff, and produces the very water desired by the people, who would question the miraculous nature of the event?

But instead of a celebration, an awakening, an opportunity for the people to repent once and for all, this miracle goes down not only as a failure — the site is now known as "Waters of Dispute" (*Mei Meriva*) — but God chastises Moses with the most devastating punishment imaginable: the man whose dream is to bring the Jews into the land of Israel will never himself enter the land. Thus the

potential of the miracle is transformed into a tragedy.

WHAT ADDS tension to this incident is that it appears immediately following the laws of the *Para Aduma*, the red heifer. It is significant that this problematic ritual concerning purity also features water.

To neutralize the impurity caused by contact with the dead — the highest degree of ritual impurity (*tuma*) — the Torah commands the preparation of a special compound derived from "a completely red cow, which has no blemish, and which has never had a yoke on it." (Numbers 19:2)

Here is no shortage of symbolism. The cow is the essence of sustenance and fruitfulness. A red cow is a powerful image (red is the color of blood, the essence of all life, as the Torah emphasizes: "for the blood is the soul") and the words *red* (*adom*) and *blood* (*dama*) share the same root in Hebrew.

After the cow is slaughtered, its skin, flesh, blood and entrails are to be burned, and cedar wood, hyssop and crimson wool are thrown into the fire. The tree bark, fragrant spice and protective wool represent the life forces of plant and animal in nature.

complementing the bountiful heifer.

The ashes, which are then gathered, are mixed with *mayim hayim* (living water), and sprinkled upon anyone who has had contact with the dead. The ritually impure individual then becomes pure once again — miraculously redeemed, as it were, from the specter of death.

In linking the dubious miracle of the "Waters of Dispute" and the law of the red heifer, water is central. I believe the biblical message is clear. Water transforms lifeless rock into a life-giving sustenance, and purifies the impure, bringing the dead bones of Ezekiel Valley back to life. But much depends on the people's leader and his motivation.

A leader who has become impatient and angry with his people will turn the miracle water into muddy swamp, the promise of homeland Israel into the disappointment of desert wandering. Hence, Maimonides identifies Moses' sin in his angry words: "Hear now, you rebels!" and in the displacement of his anger when he strikes the rock instead of striking the people — his real sin.

Life-giving miracles occur all around us. We require leaders with the intention of purifying and loving the nation to turn life-giving waters into the purity of eternal redemption.

Shabbat Shalom.

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Beer-Sheva
Conductor: Uri Mayer
Hungarian Radio Choir
Registration for Music Program for 1995/96 season continues.

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Shabbat at the Museum for the whole family
Monday, 3.7, and Wednesday, 5.7.
The Woman who lives in the Picture
A Gallery Performance
Tuesday, 4.7, 11.00 a.m.
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A Gallery Performance

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TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART

Unschoolled winner He helps

CHESS

NICK KOPALOFF

THERE are numerous examples of excellent women chess players. Vera Menchik, women's world champion from 1927 to 1944, certainly made her mark in men's circles. The Austrian master Becker derisively suggested that any male player who lost to her should be granted membership of the Menchik club.

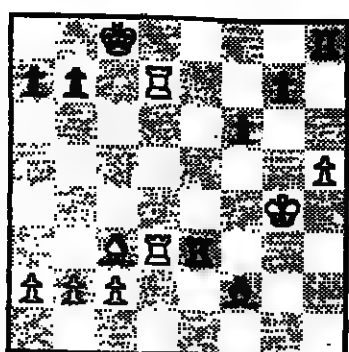
Ironically Becker himself became the first member. And he was soon followed by chess giants Euwe and Reshevsky. Menchik's career was tragically cut short when she was killed by a German bomb in an air raid over London in 1944.

For the last few years Judith Polgar, now 18, has been carrying the banner of women's chess. One of three top chess-playing Jewish sisters from Hungary, Judith never went to school, but received an alternative education from her parents. She was the youngest player of either gender ever to receive the title of grand master, and she insists on only playing in the top tournaments, which are usually all-male.

At the recent Dos Hermanas tournament in Spain, Polgar finished fourth in a world-class field, and was only half a point behind the leading group of Kamsky, Karpov and Adams. With eight draws and a win she was the only player to go undefeated.

Polgar, Judith - Salov, Valery
Dos Hermanas, 1995
Sicilian Defense - Karas Attack
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.g4 h6 7.h4
Nc6 8.Rg1 d5 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.exd5
Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qe2+; the
game Anand - Salov, Moscow
1992 continued 12.Bc3 Qxh4
13.Qf3 a6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.0-0-0
Bb6

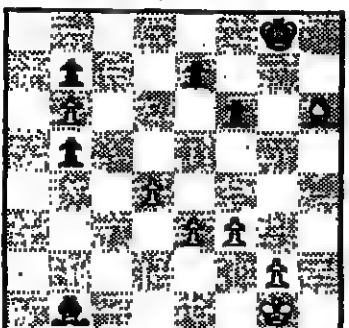
12...Qe7! 13.Bc3 Nxd4
14.Bxd7+ Kxd7 15.Bxd4 Qxe2+
16.Kxe2 f6 17.Rd1 Rf8 18.Bc3
Kc6 19.Rd3 Bc5 20.Rg1 Rce8+
21.Kf3 h5 22.Rxd5 hxe4+
23.Kxe4 Bxf2 24.Rd6+ Kc7
25.Rd7+ Kc8 26.h5 Kc3
27.Rd6



27...Rg3; nothing too spectacular but described by the British Chess magazine as an amusing nuance.

28.Rxg3 Kxd7 29.Rg2 Bc5 30.Re2
b5 31.Bd2 Bd4 32.Bf4 Bc5 33.c3
a6 34.b4 Be7 35.Re3 f5+ 36.Kxf5
Rxb5+ 37.Kg6 Rb5 38.Kxg7 Rf5
39.Re4 Bd6 40.Bxd6 Kxd6 41.e4
Rf2 42.cxb5 axb5 43.Rd4+ Ke6
44.Rd8 Rxa2 45.Rb8 Rg2+
46.Kh6 0-5 - 0-5

Endings with opposite colored bishops often end in a draw. In the following position, from the US 1994 women's championship, Black, Marinello, is a pawn down but in a winning position. She missed the winning line and went on to lose the game to Levitina. Black to play and win.



Solution: 1...Be4!; and white must resign. By offering itself for capture the bishop prevents White's freeing move e4 which would enable White's bishop to monitor the advance of black's b pawn. Now there is no way to prevent its promotion. 0-1.

He helps feed his younger siblings

NATURE

DYORA BEN SHAUL

THE bee eater is a brightly colored bird found wherever there are embankments of earth, such as hills cut up by roads, earthen dikes and the like. This is because the bee eater (*Merops apiaster* in Latin, *shrak-rak* in Hebrew) builds its nest by burrowing a horizontal tunnel some 180 centimeters into earth banks.

The tunnels of a nesting colony are usually about two to three meters apart, and each tunnel is about 10 centimeters in diameter. For some unknown reason, bee eaters build far more tunnels than they use.

Bee eaters are a very bright green with a contrasting color on the throat and a strongly delineated black eye stripe. They are long bodied, slender and weigh about 50 to grams. They live on insects, especially bees, wasps and hornets which they catch in flight. It is common to see a row of them sitting on a telephone or electricity wire from which they periodically swoop down to catch bees.

When the nesting tunnel has been completed by a pair of bee eaters, a process that takes about two weeks, the female lays four to seven eggs, which are incubated for 19 to 21 days, mostly by the mother. Both parent birds sleep in the nest at night.

The young are fed by both mother and father, on predigested insects at first and later on whole bees, wasps and other insects.



The bee eater is a very bright green, with a contrasting color on the throat and a strongly delineated black eye stripe.

It is in this phase that one of the most interesting behavior patterns is to be seen.

It is quite common for young males to help the parents catch and deliver food for the nest. This behavior was first noted in Israel and has now been documented elsewhere.

Careful tagging and observation have revealed that these young males are, in almost every case, unmated adults hatched by the same pair the year before. By assisting their parents in rearing the siblings, these males make their own contribution to the survival of their genes even without entering the reproduction cycle.

When these male helpers eventually do mate, they usually build their nesting tunnel as close as possible to the parent birds. In

time a large colony is well divided into individual extended families, thus optimizing the survival chances of the genes of that specific family.

The bee eaters arrive here from the beginning of April and remain until the young are strong enough for free flight. Summer residents, they are gone before autumn sets in.

Bee eaters are swift of flight. Their main sources of danger are snakes that may raid their burrows and, sadly, wasps and hornets poisoned with toxic bait. Though many beekeepers say they're a nuisance because of the number of worker bees they consume, entomologists point out that bee eaters are the most significant controllers of wasp and hornet populations.

Last board takes all

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North
♠ KQ104
♥ K1098
♦ 9874
♣ 4

West
♠ AJ653
♥ Q62
♦ 10
♣ J1092

East
♠ 982
♥ A
♦ KQJ653
♣ Q63

South
♠ 7
♥ 17543
♦ A2
♣ AK875

West
pass
1♣
(all pass)

Zenkel
West
pass
double

North
pass
3♦
(all pass)

East
pass
1♦
double

South
pass
4♥
(all pass)

THE bronze medal for third place in the Generali European Women's Pairs, which ended last week in Vilamoura, Portugal, went to Ruth Porat-Levit and Migri Tzur-Albu of Tel Aviv.

They were also successful at their last international appearance there two years ago, when they won the European Community Ladies' Team Championship in nearby Montecarlo.

The winners of the Women's Pairs were Daniela von Arnim and Sabine Zenkel, who play for Germany, though Zenkel resides in Denmark. In a very close finish, they beat out second-place Poni Nehmert and Andrea Rauschheid, also of Germany.

With one board to play in the championship, Zenkel and von Arnim held a lead of eight match points over their fellow nationals. An exceptional result at either table could have made the difference. The auctions are above.

At Nehmert and Rauschheid's table, Nehmert became declarer in the popular contract of four hearts after East bid diamonds. West led her singleton ten of diamonds, which declarer won with the ace.

The danger is that West can score an overtrick in diamonds with her queen of hearts. As long as you cannot see the opponents' hands, you might play for the ace of hearts with West. In that case, you play a heart and put up the

king. If this wins and trumps are 2-2, you are home.

Nehmert did not believe in this and went for a little swindle.

She led her spade to dummy's K-Q-10-4. West jumped up with her ace and now had to find partner's entry. When she elected to play a club, Nehmert could win in hand, ruff a club and pitch her diamond loser on the king of spades. The eventual overtrick could no longer do any harm to her contract.

It was a great result for Nehmert-Rauschheid, who scored 23 match points out of a possible 25.

The solution for West would have been in the card that East signaled when a spade was led toward the dummy. East should have dropped the nine of spades, conveying a preference for the higher-ranking suit.

At the table where the leaders were playing, everything suddenly depended on Zenkel and von Arnim achieving at least a better-than-average score.

Readers should refer now to the second auction.

The two-diamond opening bid showed 4-4 in the majors and a weak hand. Von Arnim made a straightforward overall. South jumped to an equally straightforward four hearts and now the title was within Zenkel's reach.

If she chose to pass and allowed the contract to make, she would score just four match points and finish second. If she passed and defeated the contract by one trick, she would score an average (13 match points) and lose the title again.

Not being aware of the consequences of her decision, Zenkel opted to make a penalty double. When declarer won the 10-of-diamonds lead with her ace, she attacked trumps rather than spades. A small heart went to dummy's eight and East's ace.

Now von Arnim was in the driver's seat. She cashed the king of diamonds and continued diamonds. South ruffed with the jack, but Zenkel overruffed with the queen and eventually scored the ace of spades to defeat the contract, earning 22 match points and the gold medal.

AS OF Wednesday, after 23 matches of 32, Israel was in fourth position in the European Open Teams, behind Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands. In the Ladies', Israel was ninth; France was leading.

FERNAND



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

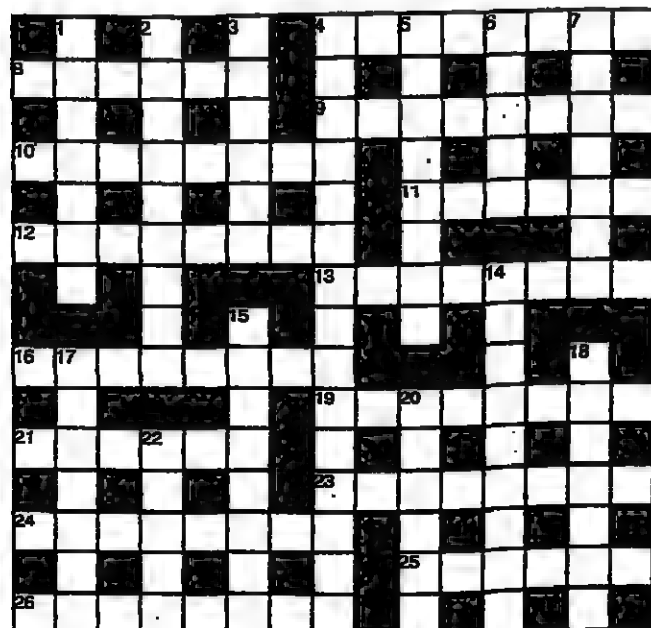
ACROSS

- 4 Purchase, but no payment is necessary (8)
- 8 Young person's hair-remover (6)
- 9 Undergarment intended, so to speak, to be a ceremonial garment (8)
- 10 Unsuccessful conjuring with a bit over (8)
- 11 Against dove in Scotland consuming eggs in witchcraft (6)
- 12 Fall over Oriental heard taking church set of three panels (8)
- 13 Identity of a beginner in the union (8)
- 16 Used to be working (8)
- 19 Industrial waste flowing out (8)

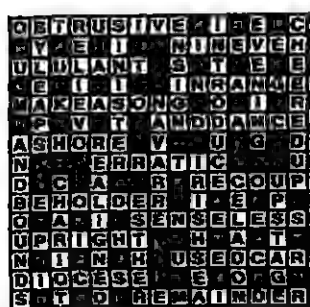
- 21 Wholesome bid Lee moved (6)
- 23 Two extreme characters involved with hen and rat running wild in Israel (8)
- 24 Others, removed the line on the map (8)
- 25 Entrance money (6)
- 26 His pony's affected by semi-consciousness (8)

DOWN

- 1 Nonsense heard repeatedly in the theatre (7)
- 2 On the other side shed excess population (9)
- 3 It is gritty during wet weather in outskirts of Grimsby (6)
- 4 The coolness of one trained in deportment? (5-10)



SOLUTIONS



ACROSS: 1 Brakes; 5 Weight; 8 Poles; 9 Fishing; 10 Tailpiece; 12 Ash; 13 Sherry; 14 Advice; 17 Gilt; 18 Vehemence; 20 Estonia; 21 Got up; 23 Dodge; 24 Hide-out.

DOWN: 1 Bad; 2 EL; 3 Ring-pin; 4 Riffed; 5 Waste; 6 Imitation; 7 High-bet; 11 Initiated; 13 Suspense; 16 Damaged; 18 Thrash; 19 Verme; 19 Expect; 22 Two.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Idler (6)
- 4 Staple food (5)
- 8 Top part of shoe (5)
- 9 Frenzied (7)
- 10 Inspect (7)
- 11 Very dry (4)
- 12 A colour (3)
- 14 Hill or mountain (4)
- 15 Religious picture (4)
- 18 Notice (3)
- 21 Weapons (4)
- 23 Invalid (7)
- 25 Contrary believer (7)
- 26 Very unpleasant (5)
- 27 Rule (5)
- 28 Observed (6)

DOWN

- 1 More noisy (6)
- 2 Mollify (7)
- 3 Items of jewellery (8)
- 4 Surpass (4)
- 5 Gain admission (5)
- 6 Resolve (6)
- 7 Bid (5)
- 13 Dissociate (8)
- 16 Supervise (7)
- 17 Parent (6)
- 19 Era (5)
- 20 Remained (6)
- 22 Tuesday (French) (5)
- 24 Knock out (4)

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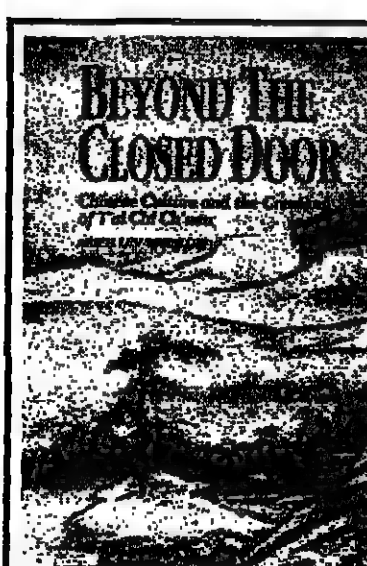
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Masada: Site with standing room only

Plans are afoot to move visitors more efficiently at the country's most popular site, Haim Shapiro reports

MASADA might seem like a pretty solid bunk of rock, but according to Ze'ev Temkin it is bursting at the seams with visitors.

Temkin, a regional and urban planner, is heading a project for the National Parks Authority to make it possible for more people to visit Masada more easily. Also involved are the Negev Tourism Development Administration, the Tamar Regional Council, and the Antiquities Authority.

When it is suggested that he is trying to turn Masada into an Israeli Disney World, Temkin recoils in horror.

"Heaven forbid. That's the last thing we want to do," he says.

But he does admit that Israel has a lot to learn from the sophisticated crowd control of the Americans. He wants people to wait as little as possible, and, if they have to wait, to make that time pleasurable. Planners must also remember that Masada is an impressive natural site, as well as a historic landmark, he stresses.

The fortress of Masada, including the remains of King Herod's desert retreat, is on a plateau overlooking the Dead Sea. It symbolizes the heroic stand of a small group of zealots who withstood the Romans for two years and ultimately committed suicide rather than fall captive.

At one time, it attracted only the daring members of youth groups, who made the difficult ascent on foot, sometimes at considerable risk. However, since the extensive excavations of Yigal Yadin in the 1960s, and the installation of a cable car, it has become a must for every tourist.

Temkin says Masada's infrastructure can cope with up to 400,000 visitors a year, but in 1994 there were 650,000. The projected number for 2010 is 1.2 million. Most groups come from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and arrive when the heat is at its worst. Sometimes, he says, visitors have to wait up to two hours for the cable car in temperatures of 35 to 40 degrees.

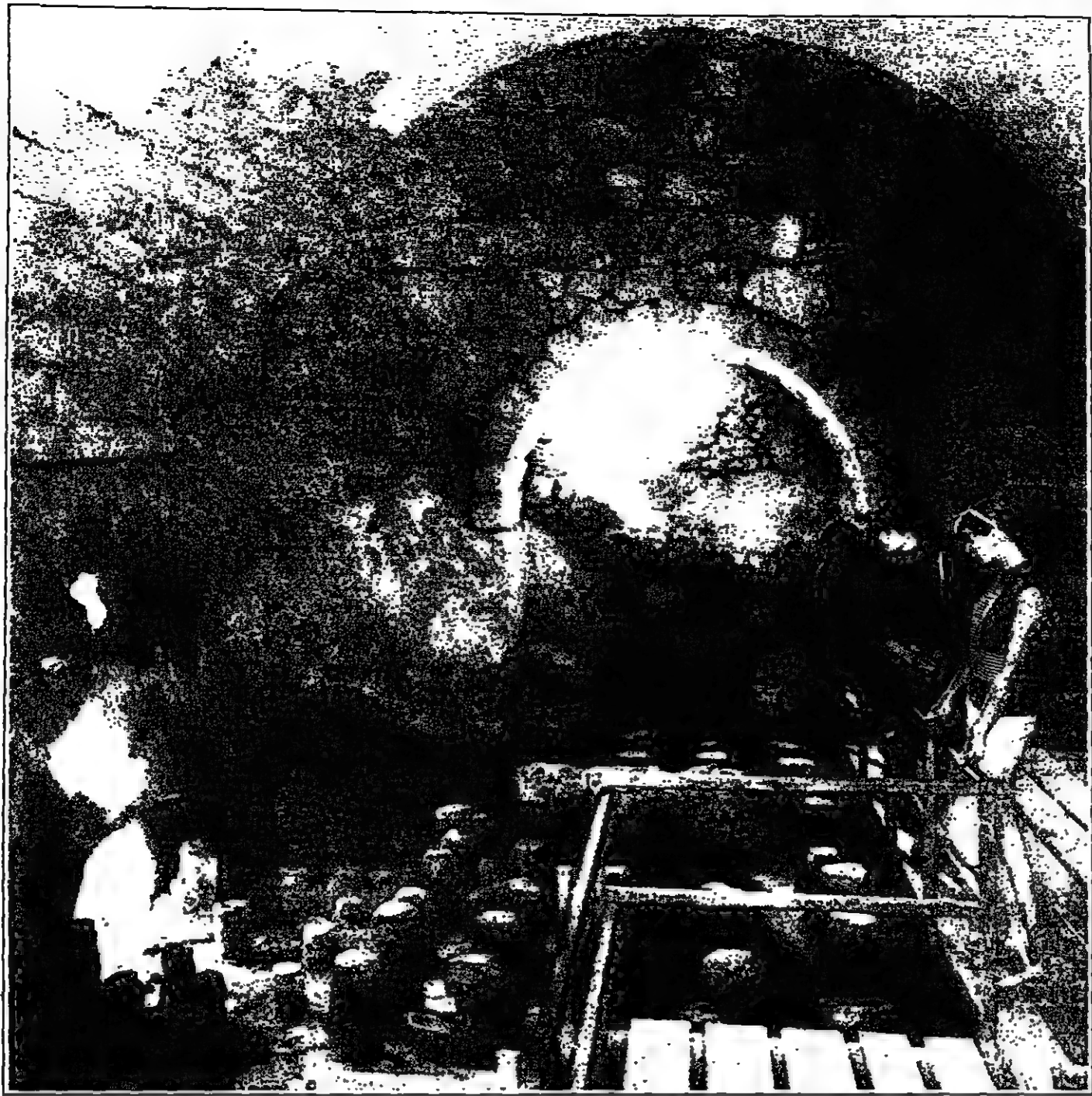
Jerusalem tour guide Shoshana Devora says that everyone wants to visit Masada, but they are not always sure why.

"They want to go because everybody goes," she says.

The most obvious solution to crowds at the cable car, says Temkin, is to install a second one, to be completed by 2010 and increase the capacity to 1,200 an hour. However, he notes, that will also increase the crowds on the mountain.

Meanwhile, to ease the wait, he suggests tickets with a specific time, a free video or slide presentation, and a museum. He also wants to expand the cafeteria, restaurant and souvenir shop.

Temkin also suggests reducing the pressure on the entrance by diverting visitors to the western entrance to Masada, by way of the Roman ramp, where the sound-and-



The biggest jam on Masada, at Herod's ancient bathhouse, is because of the shade it affords guides and visitors. (Braun)

light show is presented. They could go up one route and down the other, although this would mean the tourist buses would have to drive all the way around. He says the planners considered all sorts of ways to avoid this, including shuttle buses, a railway, and even a tunnel through the plateau, but had rejected them all as impractical.

THE MOST simple solution to overcrowding, he says, is to spread the visitors over a wider time span. There is no reason for the site to close at 4 p.m. as it now does, especially as the late afternoon hours are cooler. People could even visit at night, catching the sound-and-light show and either sunrise or sunset, especially since there are plans for 5,000 hotel rooms at the Dead Sea.

Devora agrees that late afternoon visits would be logical. If the hours were extended, many guides would be happy to bring groups at that time. As for night tours,

"those could really be wonderful," she says.

Temkin says his team timed groups with a stopwatch and found that the biggest jam was at Herod's ancient bathhouse. Because the structure is shaded, he says, guides tend to use the area as a venue in which to talk about the site in general.

So far, he says, the planners have not come up with a specific solution, but they have considered using their own guides, or a recorded explanation, to set the pace.

Devora agrees that it is unpleasant to wait in the sun at the bathhouse, but she is unhappy about these proposals, claiming that guides are generally considerate of other groups at the bathhouse.

Another site which Temkin identifies as a bottleneck is the Western Palace, with its mosaic floor. There, too, Devora says, guides use the shade to give general explanations. Temkin plans to add catwalks at different heights over the mosaics.

Another problematic site which can accommodate only one group at a time is the synagogue, where bar-mitzva ceremonies are often held. Temkin says the Parks Authority had felt the ceremonies interfered with the tours, and had demanded that bar mitzvas be held early in the morning. But he adds that experience showed that tourists were delighted to see the ceremonies. He proposes erecting an elevated platform around the synagogue.

Temkin stresses he is concerned not just with crowd control, but with visitors' feelings. Many Israelis, he says, come to see the Zealots and find only Herod. He plans to restore some of the areas where the Zealots lived.

Devora says she follows up the story of the Zealots by asking groups how they feel about the Zealots' action.

"Many of them would prefer not to hear that part, but I think it's important," she says.

Egypt to crack down on Israeli lawbreakers

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

EGYPT intends to crack down on Israeli visitors who commit infractions of the law in that country, according to a recent Foreign Ministry warning.

These include paying with shekels in Sinai, passing counterfeit currency, carrying arms or ammunition in any part of Egypt, including Taba, failing to change license plates on Israeli vehicles entering Sinai, and, what may be the most difficult thing for many Israelis to forgo - using cellular telephones. A number of Israelis were arrested in Egypt recently, the ministry warns.

Travelers to the Far East should also take extra care. The ministry's Asia and Pacific department has issued a guide for travelers, warning particularly against using drugs, both because of the dangers inherent in the drugs themselves and the severe penalties that may be incurred.

Israelis are also warned of the dangers of traveling alone in certain remote areas and about entering regions where Moslem fighters may be active. The guide includes information about health care, local Jewish communities and Israeli diplomatic representatives, and is to be distributed through travel agents.

FOR THOSE concerned about health problems abroad, Yossi Tours is to provide Israeli doctors in the popular resort towns of Antalya and Marmaris in Turkey.

A health-insurance policy offered by the company for \$2.50 a day includes everything from examinations to evacuation to Israel by air if necessary.

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NATOUR CAN now arrange entry visas and hotel reservations for Israelis wishing to visit Indonesia on their own. Among the available packages are four nights in Bali from \$279, not including airfare. The company also arranges entry visas for its tours to Morocco.

ARKIA is offering a series of vacation packages in the Greek islands, including Mykonos, Santorini, Crete and Rhodes, with prices starting at \$499 for seven nights, including airfare. Also available are seven-night packages to Sicily from \$685. As an added attraction, the company is to offer 420 tickets to Eilat and destinations abroad to those who buy a vacation package before September 20.

EL AL has begun nonstop flights from Los Angeles to Tel Aviv in its new Boeing 747-400s. The company has also opened another two centers for early check-in, one in North Hollywood and the other in downtown Los Angeles. The flight, EL AL's longest route, takes 14 hours, and the round-trip fare until August 13 is \$1,509.

The cheapest round-trip El Al fare from here to Los Angeles during that period is \$1,267.

Dramatic sunset dinner climaxes Eilat tour

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

HOW would you like to take a nice tour of the mountains around Eilat this summer, with the sun beating down and temperatures in the shade ranging around 40 degrees? At least one company is offering such tours and is apparently successful at it.

The trick is to start the tour in the afternoon, when the sun is past its peak, to end it with a dramatic sunset dinner overlooking the Red Sea and the mountains of Edom, and to use air-conditioned jeeps. The tours are offered by Tzel Midbar ("Desert Shade"), a company specializing in wilderness tours.

The tour takes visitors through the backyards, as it were, of the Coral Beach hotels, on a road that turns into a mountain track.

Even the desert is not without vegetation, and at first one sees plenty of dried plants along the route. These plants are waiting for rain or a flash flood - which may come only once every few years - so they can burst into bloom. But even these plants disappear as the jeep climbs just a few meters.

On every side slabs of red and black granite thrust up through the limestone. Elsewhere we can see the strange round stones known as *bulbusim*, the Hebrew slang for potatoes.

According to Ron Harari, who directs Tzel Midbar in Eilat and is also one of its multilingual guides, these rocks consist of flint, surrounded by limestone, with water in the very center. There is no single explanation for how they were formed, he noted.

EVENTUALLY THE trail leads to the old road to Eilat from Mitzpe Ramon, to a point where one can see not only the mountains of Jordan, but also the coast of Saudi Arabia. Harari explained that Israel and Jordan form the two sides of the African Rift and that the Jordanian side is very slowly moving northward, at the rate of one centimeter every year. At this point, he said, the Jordanian side is 105 kilometers north of the Israeli side.

Further on we stop at a point where we can look down on Ein Netafim, a tiny oasis that provides the only greenery in the area. The oasis was one of the stops along the ancient Mameluke pilgrimage route to Mecca.

It is here that we stop in the shade of the setting sun to relax on carpets and cushions spread out on the mountainside. Even though we have come in air-conditioned jeeps, the time spent out in the open has made the cold water served to us very welcome. The water is soon followed by hot tea and then by an evening snack of pita, labneh, olives and well-chilled wine.

The evening tours are available on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday for \$47 per person. Tzel Midbar will also arrange private tours at a rate per jeep of \$277 for a half day and \$394 for a full day. For information call 07-340352.

Rail pass bought in advance offers cheap way to see England

IT wasn't hard coming up with four destinations to visit in England. The problem was how to shoehorn them in on a week's visit to London.

The answer was BritRail. Riding a passenger train through the English countryside proved one of the most civilized and efficient aspects of an all-too-brief vacation visit.

Friends recommended buying a BritRail Flexipass in advance, to save waiting in line for tickets and worry about fares. I was also told that the most economical use of the BritRail pass was for trips of longer distances. (You are permitted as much use - multiple trains and transfers - as you need on four days. The days need not be consecutive.)

My favorite destination turned out to be York (I visited Bath, Cambridge and Salisbury as well), with its cathedral, neighborhood of shops called the Shambles and the National Railway Museum.

The train left King's Cross Station at 7:30 one Tuesday morning.

We arrived a little early and made our way into this great arched space bustling with activity. The coaches were all marked, and we found our seats, neatly marked with computer-printed reservation cards with our names attached. It was here that a lesson of British rail travel dawned on me. The trains are fast and modern. The stations are old, well-used and filled with the romance of the rail.

The train, which was soon gliding along at about 160 kph, had a dining car, where the thought of a large English breakfast served on tables seemed very appealing. It was, but was not inexpensive at about NIS 60 for the full spread of juice, toast, cold cereal, croissant, eggs, sausage, bacon and small grilled tomato. It did give us a chance to talk with the business travelers on the train who informed us of the bargain fare we were getting. If you didn't want this breakfast, there were plenty of vendors at the station, where a sweet roll and tea could have been had for about NIS 9.

We arrived on time. The 300 km. trip took one hour and 57 minutes. The York station that greeted us was an amazing Victorian creation, full of cast-iron arches and big clocks with mighty hands. The place was clean and well-maintained. A train seemed to be arriving and departing every three minutes. There was a fully staffed tourist-information room, where we were offered directions, maps and advice for a day's walk through the old city.

It's only about a 12-minute walk along the Roman walls to York Minster, the largest Gothic church in England (13th to 15th centuries), where choir-school students happened to be practicing their chants. It was an unexpected treat. We stayed 45 minutes and took off on foot through the town and its Shambles area, a narrow street chock-a-block with

tourist shops filled with wares generally more practical and less obnoxious than those in central London. A shop on the outskirts of the old city had pots of steaming tea and scones with cream and preserves.

The guide at the admissions desk of the National Railway Museum (adjacent to railway station) told us the place is 17 acres in size. Admission is about NIS 20. Friends at home recommended an hour in the gift shop alone. Both pieces of information were helpful. I overdosed on locomotives and gleaming coaches with gold stripes and glistening paint schemes. There is no train to ride here (who needs one after the trip from London?) but there is a do-it-yourself section where visitors are allowed to try their hands at setting the arms of an old-fashioned block signal.

The museum is full of delightful oddities. One exhibition on train tickets included the stubs you once purchased to take a dog on your journey. Alongside this was the machine that actually printed the tickets.

By the late afternoon our feet were giving out, and we limped back to the station. Our train, the Flying Scotsman, was running 40 minutes late. Once aboard, we heard a voice over the public address system explain the tardiness. The crew was late making up the coaches at the yard, and vandals had put chunks of concrete on the track. We appreciated the candor.

The BritRail Flexipasses - \$259 for first class, \$195 for standard class for four days' unlimited travel during a one-month period - and other types of passes - are available in Israel.

Once you pick your locations, it is a good idea to drop by the tourist information desk at one of the larger train stations in London, say Victoria or Waterloo. Clerks will make reservations and free seat assignments for you as well as advise on train departure times. (The Baltimore Sun)

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A royal subject on the shores of the Red Sea

Fay Morris will soon receive a Member of the British Empire citation after volunteering for fellow Brits in Eilat for nearly 40 years, Gloria Deutsch writes

IN mid-July Fay Morris will board a plane in her home town of Eilat and fly off to London, where she will receive her MBE from the queen at Buckingham Palace.

The honor - Member of the British Empire - was once awarded to the Beatles for services to British music. In Morris's case it's in recognition of years of volunteering on behalf of peripatetic British subjects who have landed themselves in a variety of sticky situations while on holiday at the Red Sea resort.

As honorary British consul for the last nine years, Morris has spent many hours in court, the hospital and the local lockup, bringing comfort to Brits in trouble, finding them work, food and lost papers, or simply trying to bail them out. This grandmotherly lady, who has lived in Eilat since the late 50s with her husband, Dr. Reginald Morris, has dispensed hours of tea and sympathy, met every notable who

ever passed through Eilat, and remained determinedly as British as when she arrived there as a young bride in 1958.

"We got married in England and couldn't find a house, so we decided to take a year off and travel," she reminisces. Having traveled through France, Spain and Turkey, they arrived in Israel and drove to Eilat just to take a look at it. There were no hotels, so they slept in their car parked on the sand.

So why did they stay? "It was like paradise - the beach totally deserted, a few palms, the red mountains and the clear expanse of blue sea. There were 3,000 people in the town, and the hospital, which was just for births, was about to expand its medical services. Reginald had had experience in tropical diseases and public health, so they took him with open arms."

The young couple prepared themselves for their new adventure in contrasting ways. Reginald went to Tel Aviv's Tel Hashomer Hospital to learn about medicine here, and Fay returned to England to take leave of her family.



Honorary British consul Fay Morris: I have a notice saying 'hours by appointment,' but if I open the door and someone is there I can't turn them away.

"They thought we were a little eccentric," she says, "but no one tried to talk us out of it. Some of them had even heard of Eilat."

They finally settled into a tiny government flat with furniture subsidized by the Jewish Agency. There was no air-conditioning, "but it was bigger than the car," she says with a smile. Pregnant

with their first child, she found the Eilat heat a rude awakening after life spent in the temperate climate of Cheshire in the north of England. But Morris adapted and never considered giving up.

"I put my flexibility down to my very stable and happy childhood," she says. "Anyway, it was all a game, it was fun."

The Morrises didn't seek out other Brits - there weren't any - but straightaway blended in with the local population. The other young mothers at the baby clinic became her friends. She founded Eilat WIZO in 1961 and began to teach childbirth without fear. She dispensed marriage guidance and legal aid in divorce cases. And in 1983 she qualified to teach English in high school.

IN 1975 direct charters from England changed the face of tourism in Eilat, bringing plane loads of young Britons whose previous destination would have been Marbella or the Côte d'Azur. Anyone in trouble found his or her way to the Morrises' home on the edge of the town. And with the return of Tabat to Egypt in 1981, Eilat became a real border town, full of English "down and outs" with a variety of problems.

What Fay had been doing unofficially for years became official when she was appointed British consul in 1986. "I'd dreamed of this job all my life," she says.

Not that it's easy. A lot of time is spent in court, explaining, translating, appealing; and much of the work involves hospital visiting. And Fay has seen a great deal more of the inside of the Eilat jail than she would like.

Speaking of her charges, she says: "They get caught stealing and often they're from good families and it's the first time they've been in trouble. I have to be on the same wavelength as the kids. I can't say they deserve what they get, I've got to be compassionate."

If a passport gets lost, her good relations with the Egyptian

authorities can help. Once a British subject died on the other side of the border and she was allowed across to claim the body. She anticipates that the opening of the Jordan border will mean a huge increase in her workload.

Not every Briton who crosses her path is a criminal. More often than not the youngsters have run out of money, or lost travel documents. Her door is always open.

"I have a notice saying 'hours by appointment,' but if I open the door and someone is there I can't turn them away. I've got another notice saying 'please don't ring the bell between two and five,' so they don't; they knock instead. I can't give them money - I used to lend it but I never got it back. I try and give them work, cleaning the house or something like that, and I give them a food bag. They are always so grateful. I can't let the young people go hungry. I'm a Jewish mother," she says.

Often there are Gentile girls who want to marry Israelis. "I try and discourage them. They are typical holiday romances and the motivation of the men is not always entirely pure. But if they go ahead I do my best to help them. I've got a young WIZO group for these girls so they can meet each other. Some convert, although it's a long process. Many are married to Arabs and they have other problems."

Things can turn nasty, too. She has had her share of drunken low-lives turning violent, drug dealers and users, even someone caught with a homemade bomb. Once she had to visit two Britons lying side by side in hospital; one had stabbed the other.

So it isn't all cucumber sandwiches on the lawn, although there is that side of it too.

Now her children and grandchildren in Eilat are continuing the tradition of helping Brits in distress. As long as Fay and Reginald Morris and family are there, there's one corner of that torrid port that is forever England.

The Agency assembly comes alive with the sound of music

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

THERE'S a new wind blowing at the Jewish Agency in more ways than one.

Clarinetist Alex Altshuler's klezmer exposition was well received at the Jewish Agency assembly's opening, but no one in the audience showed greater enthusiasm than Agency chairman Avraham Burg, who leapt onto the stage and embraced the musician, who is no stranger to him.

Burg, who for much of his life has had a yen for the clarinet, several months ago engaged Altshuler, an immigrant from the CIS, to give him weekly lessons. With all Burg's plans for revamping the Jewish Agency, will he have enough time to hit a high note?

SYMBOLICALLY clutching the ball with which the flying Springboks won the World Rugby Cup, South African rugby fan Mendel Kaplan, at the end of an eight-year term as chairman of the Jewish Agency board of governors, declared he was passing the ball to his successors, which provoked a comment from President Ezer Weizman: "Mendel, I understand you're passing the buck to someone else."

THE BUZZWORD among Jewish movers and shakers is "post-Zionist." As a topic for debate, it may give rise to stimulating discussion. But as far as Weizman is concerned, the subject shouldn't come up. It's certainly not in his lexicon, and he advised the Jewish Agency assembly to take it off the agenda.

ALTHOUGH BORN in Canberra last week, the youngest offspring of Australian Ambassador Peter Rogers and his wife Sandra can lay claim to being a peace baby.

The infant, named Jordan, was conceived in Israel; and one of



Prait: Finally puts his name where his money is. (Vivian/Scoop 80)

Peter Rogers's previous postings was Egypt. As for the Canberra component, when former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke came here on a state visit in January 1987, he proposed a Middle East economic federation along lines similar to those now touted by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mother and baby are due back in Israel at the end of July. The proud father had to return early to prepare for the upcoming visit of Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

THERE WERE only two genuine Italians, Marcella Siegel and Angela Lazar, at the luncheon held by the Friends of the Italian Museum (FIM) at the home of Marvin and Barbara Silverman, though guest speaker - art historian Anna Passov-Whitman - declared she had "Italian blood going back 400 years."

The FIM, which celebrates its first anniversary in September, was a spontaneous evolution from Siegel's invitation to personal friends to come to the succa at Jerusalem's Italian synagogue. "We sent out 40 invitations and

150 people showed up," she said. "It caught on like brushfire."

Always an innovator, the dynamic Siegel, who was born in Pitegliano in Tuscany, announced that instead of having the FIM's fund-raising campaign in anonymous and uninspiring hotel banquet halls, it would instead consist of a series of intimate dinners in the most beautiful homes in Jerusalem.

The first of these will be at the beginning of September, but for the time being Siegel is being secretive about the names of the hosts.

SHUNNING THE bright lights and the hectic pace of Tel Aviv, Robert Nakasone, president of the giant Toys 'R' Us company, preferred a small, quiet hotel in Herzliya conveniently close to the offices of Super-Pharm, which beat out Clal and Koor to get the Israeli franchise for the company's toys.

Asked what advantage Super-Pharm CEO Leon Koffler had over his rivals, Nakasone replied: "Koffler is young and flexible like the company, and he has kids at the right age to be good consultants for what appeals to children."

OVERCOMING THEIR strong personal feelings against linking philanthropy to the naming of projects, Australian millionaire industrialist and entrepreneur Richard Pratt and his wife Jeanne, whose contributions to the United Israel Appeal are among the highest in the world, were honored this week by Australian UIA at the official opening of the \$2.5 million Pratt Fam-



Koffler: Toys 'R' Us franchise holder gets a little help from a big Geoffrey - and lots of help from his children. (Yoni Reif)

ily Community Center in Rishon LeZion's Shikun Hamizrah.

This is the first time they have been persuaded to allow their names to appear on any community welfare project in this country.

The Pratts flew in for less than 24 hours to attend the ceremony. For the past six years, Australian Jewry has been involved through Project Renewal in the rehabilitation of Shikun Hamizrah, but according to Rishon LeZion Mayor Meir Nitzan the warm relationship between his city and Australia goes back to 1917, when "Rishon LeZion was liberated by

Australian troops who came with Allenby."

AT A Knesset ceremony top-heavy with local and foreign dignitaries, Charles Bronfman, honorary president of the United Israel Appeal of Canada and chairman of the board of governors of the Canadian Jewish Congress, became the 20th world Jewish leader and the fourth Canadian to be awarded UIA's prestigious Israel Goldstein Prize for Distinguished Leadership.

The Montreal-born Bronfman, who is co-chairman of the Seagram Company Ltd, chairman of

Claridge Israel Inc and chairman of The Jerusalem Report, is known for his generosity toward cultural and educational institutions in Canada and Israel.

In singling out distinguished Jewish leaders with whom he had been privileged to work, Bronfman made a point of describing former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz (now on trial for financial wrongdoings) as "a long-time personal friend and a great Israeli patriot."

LIKUD MK Ariel Weinstein, appearing at the Moriah Plaza Jerusalem's Women's Friday Forum (Shishi Nashi), announced that Ophir Pines, chairman of the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority, will be running in the Labor primaries for a seat in the Knesset.

"I hope I see you there," said Weinstein to his would-be adversary, indicating that he too would be running, albeit on the other side. Weinstein, who narrowly missed reelection to the present Knesset, spent a year-and-a-half on the sidelines, gaining his seat only after Ronni Milo was elected mayor of Tel Aviv and quit the Knesset.

JERUSALEM industrialists do much more to rehabilitate prisoners than their Tel Aviv counterparts: they're much more willing to give employment to ex-cons. Pines said. But the two groups that do the most for prisoner rehabilitation, he continued, are the kibbutzim and the yeshivot. Pines himself plays football every Friday afternoon with a group of ex-cons living in a Jerusalem hotel.

HIS PASSION for promoting good relations between Israel and Britain has earned John Furman a mention in the Queen's Birthday Honors.

Furman, a long-time chairman of the Israel Britain and the Commonwealth Association, and leader of the Israel Branch of the Royal British Legion for four decades, was previously awarded an OBE. He has now been advanced to the rank of Commander of the British Empire (CBE).

AFTER MORE than half a lifetime of keeping boys and girls on their toes, veteran ballet teacher Klara Landau-Bondy, who tucked away her tutu and hung up her own ballet slippers some years ago, is bowing out of the profession.

A third-generation dancer and teacher, the Yugoslavian-born Bondy survived Auschwitz by performing for scraps of food and clothing.

After arriving here in 1949, she worked as an assistant to noted ballet instructor Rina Nikova before opening her own studio in Jerusalem, where her students included Arab girls from the eastern part of the city, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

Bondy did not aspire to turn out prima ballerinas. Not having been blessed with children of her own, she regarded her pupils as her children and strove to give

them poise and grace - together with a love for music and dance. Many of her former pupils are now ballet teachers themselves.

ASKED WHAT it was like to be president of Brandeis University, recently installed incumbent Prof. Jehuda Reinharz, speaking to some 100 Brandeis alumni at the Jerusalem home of Amy and Ron Kronish, said that being a president of a university was like standing in a cemetery. "There are many people under you but nobody listens."

WHEN ART collector and patron of the arts Ayala Sacks-Ambrose welcomed Rosamond Bernier - international art expert and personal friend of Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, et al. - to her home in Toronto in the early 1970s, she never imagined she would be introducing her more than 20 years later to The Friends of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Jerusalem.

Speaking without notes, the eloquent and spellbinding Bernier introduced her audience to Picasso the artist and Picasso the eccentric - and made it abundantly clear that she knew them well and loved them both.

DIPLOMATS TEND to have very full social calendars, and French Ambassador Pierre Brochand and his wife Kathryn had to exercise maximum discipline this week to make sure they could keep all their engagements.

The couple made their beautiful home in Jaffa available on Tuesday for the Female Executive of the Year crowning ceremony. The invitation stated that the event would be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. But just in case there were any guests who thought they might linger, there was also a sticker attached to the invitation, emphasizing that the event would conclude at precisely 6:30. There are some places in Israel where Mediterranean mean time can't be taken for granted.

INVESTOR AND real-estate developer Itzhak Harel, 55, realized the third of his childhood dreams this week when he made his inaugural address as head of the Israel Lions Club.

Orphaned as a child and brought up in dire poverty, Harel promised himself that one day he would be rich, have a family of his own and provide for the less fortunate. The first two dreams and part of the third were realized some years ago.

A former IDF officer, and a long-time member of the Lions Club, Harel lives with his family in a beautiful and spacious home in Kfar Shmaryahu. As head of Israel Lions, Harel will realize the third part of his dream at the beginning of July when he represents Israel at the Lions Club world convention in Korea. The Lions Club is active in education, medical aid, quality of the environment, the fight against drug abuse and other areas of social welfare in 178 countries.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1995

'Israel has no need for aid' Transfers of foreign funds into Israel jump 18 percent

ISRAEL would be better off giving up the economic assistance it receives from the US, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Director Stanley Fischer told *The Jerusalem Post* in an exclusive interview.

"Israel would demonstrate its economic independence, which is worth a hell of a lot," Fischer said.

Part of the reason the country's economy has a worse reputation than it deserves is that the government goes to the US Congress and justifies the aid by saying "we're poor," he said.

Fischer pointed out how that reputation produces looks of disbelief when he asks, "which country has had greater export growth since 1948, Israel or Japan?" and answers Israel to his incredulous audience.

Although there are problems, the economy is essentially strong.

On pure economic grounds, Israel could adjust very well to the elimination of the \$3 billion annual assistance from the US.

Fischer cautioned, however, that it would be better not to have to adjust to such a cut overnight, since a sudden cut of the magnitude of four percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product would be painful.

Nevertheless, if it were done over a period of a couple of years, the cut would be relatively painless, he said.

The major cloud on the economy's horizon for Fischer is the balance-of-payments deficit, which the government should meet head on by cutting spending. Asked if such a scenario is realistic, considering that next year is an election year, Fischer responded

that governments do not lose elections for pursuing the right economic policies.

If the government does not cut spending, Fischer said, it should then raise taxes to help reduce its debt and balance-of-payments gap.

Asked if it was wise to raise taxes in a country with such a high tax burden, he responded "the right thing to do is cut spending - if you can't do that, then raise taxes."

Fischer agreed with the business sector's claims that interest rates are too high, but blamed their elevated levels on the government's failure to restrain spending enough, leaving the fight against inflation exclusively in the hands of monetary policy.

He characterized as overblown the fears that the anti-inflationary measures would plunge the economy into a recession.

"It's a danger, but you've been with more than full employment and growing for the past five years. Inflation has been difficult to control - the danger is not a recession but the economy overheating."

Asked if in retrospect the \$10b. in US loan guarantees was justified, Fischer responded that they were and he was happy he had testified before the US Congress in their support.

He added that although the number of immigrants that arrived was short of the one million estimated, the government made a good faith effort to guess the numbers.

Fischer rejected the question over the government's use of the guarantees. "Whether the guarantees are used in a particular way is not the issue," he said.

"The issue is whether the government is running an overall coherent program that ensures that the Israeli economy is growing fast enough and developing exports fast enough so it can repay them."

Fischer concluded that given the growth in exports and in the economy in the past five years, "it's a safe thing under present indications." However, he warned, "they will have to do something on fiscal policy to make sure the current account deficit doesn't worsen."

According to him, the economy has the inherent capacity to repay its debt. "It's strong - it's stronger than any Israeli government is willing to admit."

However, he said a national internal and external debt that reaches 90% of GDP is "not comfortable."

Fischer said he was "guardedly optimistic" about the creation of a Middle East development bank. Although the Europeans, led by Germany, are presently cool to the idea, he sees indications of progress in the most recent proposal for a two-step process leading to its creation.

He rejected, however, the idea of leaving the establishment of such a bank until after the peace process has been completed.

"The justification for this bank is that it is supposed to be a thing to assist the dynamics of the peace process by getting the people in the region to work together on something positive."

Transfers of foreign funds into Israel jump 18 percent

UNILATERAL transfers of private funds from abroad jumped 18 percent during the first five months of the year to \$1.8 billion, covering less than half of the rapidly expanding trade gap, the Bank of Israel's Foreign Currency Department reported yesterday.

About half of the transfers are presents or donations to individuals and organizations; 30% are net transfers of funds from immigrants, foreigners and returning residents, and the remaining 20% consists of repatriation money to Nazi war victims, mostly originating from Germany.

The private sector's unilateral transfers play a central role in financing the balance-of-payment deficit.

In recent years, unilateral transfers covered about 60% of the trade gap. The transfers grew from 3.9% of the Gross Domestic Product in 1991 to 5.1% of GDP last year. Nevertheless, the cash inflow has been unable to match the ballooning trade deficit.

Presents and donations rose 17% to \$900m. in the first five months, from \$790m. during the same period last year. More than half of the donations were made to non-profit organizations, including educational, charity and religious organizations and medical centers.

The transfers to these institutions tend to be made on a regular basis and in large amounts. The increase in donations is due to the rise of fund raising abroad.

Transfers to individuals originate mostly from income-support payments deriving from accumulated social benefits and inheritances. Most of the transfers are made on a regular basis and in small amounts.

Transfers from immigrants, foreigners and returning residents jumped 25% to \$550m., reflecting the overall rise in immigration. About two-thirds of the funds are brought in by immigrants; 27% from Israelis living abroad, and 5% from foreigners.

Most of the cash transferred is converted into shekels and is used to buy assets.

German repatriation payments are relatively stable. During the first five months of the year, repatriations totaled 468m. marks compared with 459m. marks during the same period last year. Since most of the repatriation payments are in marks, the rise in payments to \$354m. from \$302m. reflects the steep devaluation of the dollar against the German currency.

The Bank of Israel reported that unilateral transfers abroad amount to only \$200m. a year, making up less than 5% of the transfers to Israel. The transfers abroad, which mostly fund education and health expenditures, have doubled since the beginning of the decade.

EU okays Bio-Lon syringe

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BIO-TECHNOLOGY General has announced that BioLon, its ready-to-use syringe, has been approved in Europe by Medical Device Certification, an official body of the European Union.

The approval will enable BioLon to bear the CE mark, which means it can be marketed in the European Union.

The company said the syringe contains a 1% solution of sodium hyaluronate for use in ophthalmic surgery procedures.

Over the next few years, Bio-Technology plans to capture between 20 percent and 30% of the market, which is estimated at between \$70 million and \$80m. The company's earnings from the sale of BioLon in Europe were \$1.5m. last year.

Pharma Stullin, the company's partner in Germany, plans to launch the product in Germany at the beginning of next month.

BioLon is already marketed here, as well as in Canada, France, Greece, India, Mexico, Portugal, South Korea and Spain.

Registration in the US, non-EU European countries, the Pacific Rim and Latin American countries are planned for this year and next.

music

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UK POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY OFFERS BUYING OPPORTUNITIES - DON'T MISS OUT ON THE BOUNCE

STERLING - Despite bears taking sterling down to DM2.08-2.10 on the political uncertainty caused by PM major's decision to resign as leader of the ruling Conservative Party, there have been encouraging signs of European buying on fundamentals, and strong support has developed at DM2.19. Sterling remains vulnerable to US money managers who traditionally overreact to political uncertainty overseas. Any assumption of dollar weakness will not be helpful to sterling, but *Astaire and Partners Ltd.* can hedge sterling assets for non-sterling-based clients.

UK EQUITIES - The long Sept. future has fallen from a high of 408-31 (June 4) to 403-21, and needs to hold support levels clustered around 403-00 if it is to avoid a decline to 402-00. The market is concerned that whoever becomes PM after the Conservative leadership election will relax fiscal policy to win votes. Yesterday's auction went well and boosted short-term confidence.

UK EQUITIES - Financial markets are poor at political analysis. This opens up potential opportunities for the objective investor who sticks to fundamentals. The UK economy is in much better shape than those of its European partners. The opposition Labour Party will not be the market bogeyman it has been in the past, and any change of policy resulting from the Conservative leadership election is likely to be cosmetic and minimal. There is only a small chance that a snap General Election will be called this Autumn, which would again make sterling assets vulnerable to uncertainty.

Our clients are watching and waiting carefully. The short-term speculators have been pushing the market down through derivative trading, and little investment business is being done. Bess (BASS), BOC Group (BOC), Cable and Wireless (CWL), and Shell Transport and Trading (SHELL) are stocks that our clients will be targeting. Next week's new issue JNC Oil and Gas, priced yesterday at 180p and capitalised at £128m, is generating interest amongst our clients.

PFM ISRAEL GROWTH FUND: Net Asset Value as at June 26, 1995 - US\$55.48

Any information contained herein should not be construed in any way as a public offering.

Assets of index-linked savings plans increase 10.7%

JOSE ROSENFELD

ASSETS of index-linked savings programs rose 10.7 percent during the first quarter to NIS 46.4 billion, while index-linked bank deposits increased a more moderate 6.1% to NIS 14b., the Bank of Israel Monetary Department reported yesterday.

The rise mostly reflected the flight of savers from provident funds (*kupot gemel*), which last year registered real negative yields, to shorter-term bank savings plans that offered high real interest rates.

According to the central bank, part of the reason behind the more attractive returns on commercial bank savings was a series of banking reforms that were adopted since last October.

First, the Bank of Israel cut the minimum deposit period for index-linked and foreign currency-linked deposits from three months to one month.

The change was aimed at giving consumers and businesses more freedom to operate in the capital market.

Second, the central bank reduced the commercial banks' liquidity requirements, which freed up more money for the banks to lend and increased their demand for deposits.

This change has helped reduce the gap between the interest rate paid on loans and that paid on deposits, as to attract more deposits the banks have been promising higher yields.

Third, in order not to discriminate against index-linked savings, the taxation on index rises was eliminated, except on the last index, just as foreign exchange differentials are not taxed on foreign currency-linked deposits.

The interest and the last index are taxed at 35%.

Both the reductions in the minimum deposit period and in liquidity requirements have helped eliminate the distortions created by the previous administrative limitations.

As a result, the difference between short-term and long-term real interest rates has dropped from a level of 25 percent eight years ago to a few percentage points today.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Exports to South Africa increased 23 percent in the first half of the year compared with the corresponding period last year, Safto, the South African export institute, announced yesterday. Israel exported \$150 million worth of goods to South Africa last year, mainly consisting of potash, polished diamonds, irrigation equipment and security systems.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Africa Israel Tourism and Vacation, the manager of the local Holiday Inn chain, has announced it will offer its preferred customers special benefits and conditions. The company has set up a club named Ha'magel Ha'rishon, which will offer its 15,000 members 15%-30% discounts at Holiday Inn hotels worldwide, as well as a variety of local holiday and entertainment benefits.

Galit Lipkis Beck

First International Bank has announced it is reducing its prime interest rate by 0.5 percent to 15% annually, effective at the start of next month. The bank said the interest on Gold Credit card transactions will fall to 13.5% annually.

Galit Lipkis Beck

BUSINESS PARTNERS WANTED

Singapore employment agency, specializing in Thai, Chinese and Indian workers, seeks partners to develop and expand business in Israel. No financial investment required. More information available from Mr. Roland Soh, Fax. 65-6814527 or 65-2966629.

Discount Investments hopes to raise NIS 175m. via issue on TASE

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DISCOUNT Investments hopes to raise about NIS 175 million through an issue on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange based on the company's financial statements for the second quarter.

In an announcement to the TASE, the company said IDB Development, its parent company, plans to invest in the issue. IDB currently owns 55% of Discount's shares.

The company said the proceeds of the sale will be used mainly to expand its capital base, which was NIS 1.4 billion at the end of March.

The proceeds will also be used for investments and development of new businesses.

Since the company last raised capital on the exchange five years ago, Discount has invested in 20 new businesses, mainly in the communications and electronics field. Discount raised NIS 95m. in 1990.

In related news, Discount announced plans to purchase 3.4% of Clal Israel shares for NIS 93 million by exercising the series 3 warrant notes it has in the company.

After the investment, Discount's share in Clal will increase to 6.7%, while IDB Development's shares will increase to 36.2%.

Joel sued

A NIS 5.6 million class action suit was filed yesterday against Jerusalem Oil Exploration (Joel), its directors and owners. The suit was also filed against controlling shareholders Joe Elmalech and Dani Toledano, and Pass-Port, Joel's owner.

The suit was filed by Joel shareholder Arieh Gur who is demanding compensation for damages caused to shareholders due to the company's decision to cancel the purchase 30 percent of Bistop-Nargila, owned by Elmalech and Toledano. Caspi claims the transaction was canceled due to personal interests.

On February 17, Joel informed its shareholders of the board's decision to issue Elmalech and Toledano 9% of the company's shares in exchange for 30% of Bistop's shares. Six weeks later, the company announced the cancellation of the transaction.

In the suit, Caspi claims the transaction was canceled because of the value of Joel's shares on the execution date.

Galit Lipkis Beck

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*Information sessions will be held in Israel during July/August 1995.

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Pound sterling	2.1053	2.1154	2.07	2.12
French franc	4.8593	4.7945	4.57	4.81
Japanese yen (100)	0.0114	0.0112	0.59	0.62
German mark (100)	3.4485	3.5023	3.39	3.49
Dutch guilder	1.8904	1.9108	1.84	1.89
Swiss franc	2.5345	2.5754	2.49	2.52
Swedish krona	0.442	0.4108	0.39	0.42
Norwegian krone	0.4728	0.4905	0.46	0.49
Danish krone	0.5997	0.5879	0.53	0.58
Finland mark	0.5879	0.6094	0.67	0.71
Australian dollar	2.1393	2.1799	2.10	2.15
S. African rand	2.1103	2.1444	2.07	2.12
Belgian franc (10)	0.0055	0.0055	0.73	0.82
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0252	1.0418	1.00	1.06
Italian lire (1000)	2.9454	3.0438	2.94	3.09
Jordanian dinar	1.7689	1.8259	1.76	1.88
Egyptian pound	—	—	4.12	4.41
U.S. dollar	3.8820	3.9447	0.24	0.25
U.S. dollar	4.8079	4.8835	4.72	4.86
U.S. dollar	2.4078	2.4485	2.38	2.49
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FULLY EQUIPPED, CENTRAL, 3 large rooms, elevator, immediately. = 03-346368.

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NEVE AVIVIM, 4 in 5-room, new, luxurious, beautiful, unfurnished, etc., parking. Avi Dotan Realtor, 050-337775.

LUXURIOUS, FULLY EQUIPPED penthouse, beautifully renovated building. Long/short-term. = 03-5288773.

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AFEKA, modern villa, excellent site, immediate. = 03-6427241; 03-6417690.

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RAMAT AVIV Gimmel (Tasman Hoshel) 4 furnished, nice, long-term. \$1500. = 03-6426293.

SALES

RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL, 5 + balcony, new, exclusive, quiet, underground parking. Yael Realtor (Maldan), = 03-6426293.

3.5, fourth floor, elevator, parking, Azorov (near Dizengoff), \$980,000. "Garsch" = 03-5444331.

SAVON, SUPER LUXURIOUS, villa on 3 dunams, 400 sq.m. pool, \$2.5 million. American Realty. = 02-820126; Fax: 02-232222.

BAT YAM, roof apartment. TEL AVIV, Dizengoff, studio apartment. = 050-244311, Zifon.

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ON HERBERT SAMUEL, sea view, elevator, parking, almost new, \$380,000, ANGLO-SAXON (Maldan), = 03-5467722.

NEAR TOWN HALL, new, high floor, elevator, parking, storage, \$550,000, ANGLO-SAXON (Maldan), = 03-5467722.

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RAMAT POLEG, cottage, sea view, new, furnished, near country club. = 09-355752 (weekdays).

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RAMAT AVIV Gimmel, new modern building, 3, spacious, designed for expansion + balcony, \$300,000. = 03-5426293.

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BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY APARTMENTS, tourists/businessmen, short/long-term. DYNAMIA = 03-5468003, Fax: 03-5469667.

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IMPORT COMPANY requires English typist (English mother-tongue). = 03-6958117.

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SECRETARY * English + typing + Q. text, 9.00am-14.00, Tel. 03-5108192, 03-6049588 (shamoon)

SECRETARY, English mother tongue, Hebrew, computer typing, full-time, hours: 9-5pm. C.V. only, Fax: 03-5440249 or by mail POB 6115, Tel Aviv, 51080.

FAST AND CAPABLE English typist with phrasing ability, good command of Hebrew. Tel. 03-5256258, Fax: 03-5284659.

F/T SECRETARY/CLERK for company developing medical devices. Fluent English, working Hebrew and word processing (Word preferred). Diamond Exchange area. Fax resume: 03-6133253.

LAW FIRM REQUIRES excellent English mother tongue typist, dictaphone & clerical assistance. Knowledge of Hebrew preferred. Sun-Thurs. 9 am - 3 pm. = 03-5103368.

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LEGAL SECRETARY/TYPIST for Tel Aviv law firm. Mother tongue English; Hebrew preferred. Contact Adv. Maara Rosenfeld 03-5103870/fax 03-5170998.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

A MARY POPPINS required for Nanny-Mothers help - experience preferred not essential. For housework + childcare, live-in only, long term positions. (Agency) = 03-6190423

IMMEDIATE JOBS available, friendly families, best conditions, the Agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Hilda 03-955937.

GENEROUS ENGLISH family seeks South African au pair, live-in, central Tel Aviv. \$700 + immediate bonus 200 shekels = 03-231746.

SEEKING LIVE-IN, all nationalities + references, immediate job available. Call now = 03-5470161.

AU PAIR, LIVE-IN/OUT for 4 lovely children + housekeeping, Ganei Yehuda near Savoyon. = 03-5345782, after 6:30 pm.

RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL, childcare + housekeeping, live-in/out, knowledge of Hebrew. = 03-580111.

SEEKING LIVE-OUT AU PAIR, English speaking, Tel Aviv. = 03-6918048 (NS).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, including administration + sales, bilingual, experienced, long hours. = 03-5616718.

SEEKING LIVE-IN AU PAIR for childcare and housework. = 03-6474519; 03-9616555, Mazal.

AU PAIR wanted immediately for a warm family, Ramat Aviv, experience. = 03-6413647.

AUPAIR, FILIPINA, live-in, for childcare, good conditions. Call Yared 03-5753840 till 3:00pm; 03-6771424 after 4:00 pm.

Elderly woman seeks FILIPINA ATTENDANT for live-in care (Possible to bring from abroad) 03-5441468, 07-712827

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\$700 FOR AN ENGLISH or Hebrew speaking woman for cleaning and childcare. Tel. 03-5105740.

SEEKING FEMALE HELPER, live-in, 1 year, preferably more. = 03-5490404.

EUROPEAN/SOUTH AFRICAN AU PAIR, + housekeeping, live-in, good conditions. References. = 03-5493388.

\$700 for English or Hebrew speaker for housecleaning + childcare. = 03-5105740, 03-5180618.

MALE CLEANER NEEDED on Friday mornings. = 03-5354978.

PHILIPINA, + live-in Tel Aviv area, good conditions. = 03-539626; 03-5235630.

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RENTALS

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HERZLIYA PITUAH, Kfar SHMAR-YAHU, selection of villas for rent. SHA-SHOUA (Maldan), = 08-570878.

HERZLIYA, beautiful spacious 4-room apt., fully furnished + equipped, near shops + transport. Available mid-July, \$675. = 09-518823.

SHARON HOTEL, July - August, studio apartment, sea view. Selection of villas + apartments in Herzliya Pituah. NURIT REALTY. = 09-555670.

NETANYA, NITZA BOULEVARD, 4 1/2 rooms, 132 sq.m., luxury apartment, sea view, balcony, pool, central a/c. \$800 - Tel/Fax: 09-629902

HERZLIYA PITUAH, ON THE BEACH, fully furnished, 3 1/2 rooms, spacious, 2 bedrooms. = 09-570854.

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JULY 15 - AUGUST 30, 4-BEDROOM beautiful villa 1 street from sea, \$7000 monthly. = 09-570049.

AU PAIR + HOUSEKEEPER, 2 sweet kids, flexible hours, in Savoyon. = H: 03-5344719; W: 03-7512261 (Jodi).

HERZLIYA PITUAH! a selection of beautiful villas, suitable for diplomats, from \$2,000. CONNECTIONS = 09-504619.

FURNISHED PENTHOUSE, 5 rooms, central, parking, elevator, solar boiler. = 09-581305.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, NEAR THE SEA, Aug-Sept., 3 comfortable rooms, 2 bathrooms, air-conditioning. 09-557568, 8-9 am.

SALES

RAMAT HASHARON, excellent location, spacious 6 + large basement (private). = 03-5491918.

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SHIKUN DAN, excellent location, 750 sq.m. plot, asking \$1,700, 7 rooms, good condition. Ilam Real Estate, Tel. 09-589811

ANAT = 09-588353, 052-532744.

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HERZLIYA PITUAH, modern villa, fantastic location, SHASHOUA (Maldan), Tel. 08-570878.

RA'ANANA, spacious 4 + 1 + huge roof, very unique and beautiful, quiet, 3rd floor (without). = 09-431616.

HERZLIYA HEIGHTS, elegant 3 room apartment, very large balcony, OREN-DUNSKY, Tel. 09-573066.

HERZLIYA B - top of the hill, 5 room penthouse, 100 sq.m., balcony, OREN-DUNSKY, Tel. 09-573066.

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FOR SALE IN RA'ANANA • Beautiful large 5 room apartment, 3rd floor central. Good value \$299,000

• Luxurious 3 1/2 + 5 room apartment with garden/balcony. Now under construction. High quality from \$235,000

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NETANYA
SALES

- JABOTINSKY - 3-m

Wimbledon player disqualified for hitting girl with ball

LONDON (Reuters) - Disqualified British tennis player Tim Henman kissed and made up with injured ballgirl Caroline Hall at Wimbledon yesterday - but it came too late to save him from a \$3,000 fine.

Referee Alan Mills fined Henman \$2,000 for hitting Hall with the ball and another \$1,000 for being defaulted as a result.

Before the punishment was announced, Henman had presented Hall, 16, with a large bouquet of flowers and, to the delight of photographers, kissed his victim in a public apology.

On Wednesday evening, Henman, 20, and his partner Jeremy Bates became the first players disqualified from Wimbledon in the Open era.

Their match with Swede Henrik Holm and American Jeff Tarango was locked at 6-6 in the fourth set when Henman struck a ball in anger and hit Hall hard behind the left ear.

The British pair were promptly disqualified while Hall had to receive treatment.

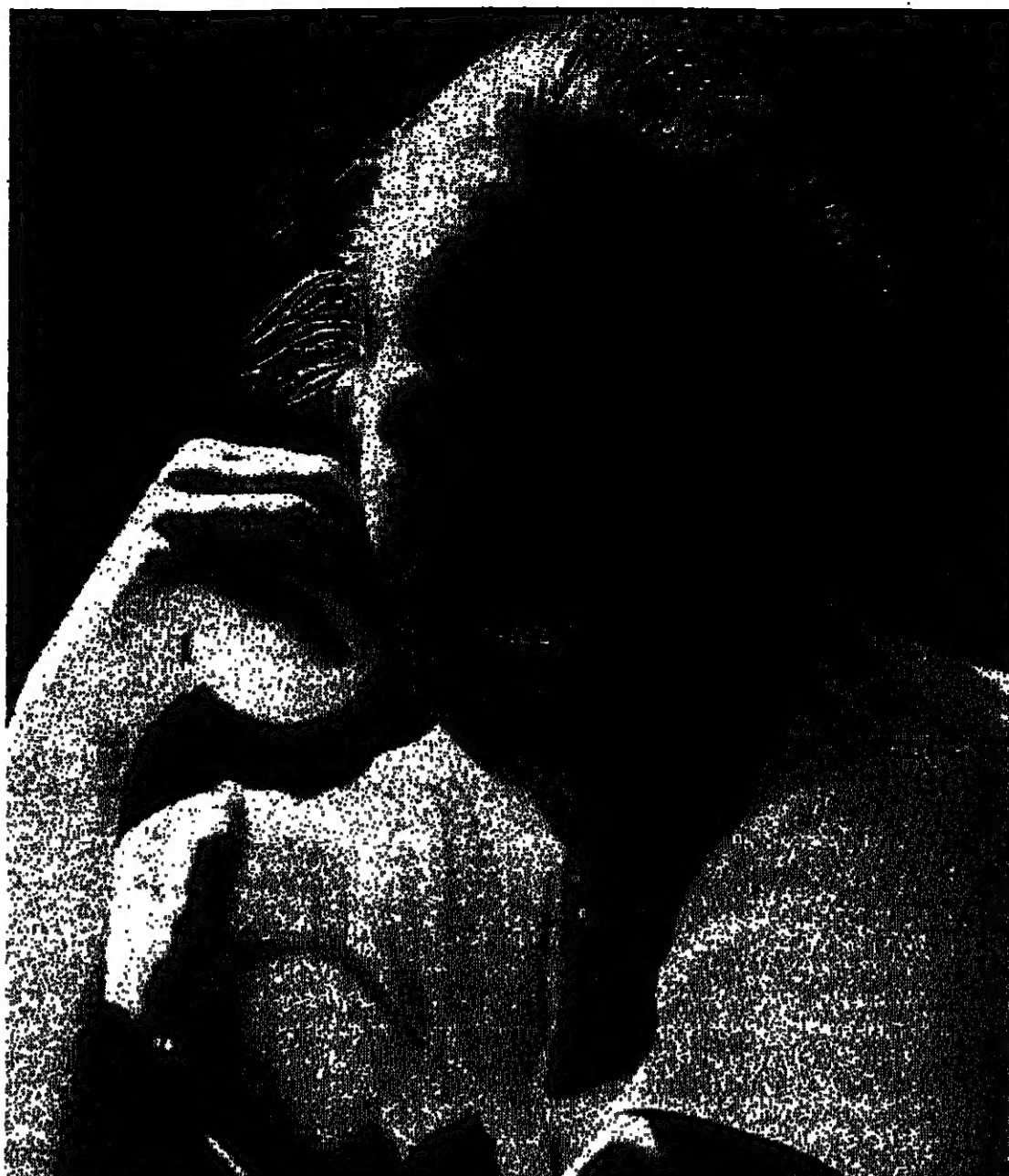
The injured girl said yesterday: "I have seen the doctor and he said that I should rest although I wanted to come back to work today."

She added: "I'm really sorry that the game had to end that way, especially since the British were winning."

"They did not even think about the match. In fact, Jeremy was the first person to rush over to check I was okay and he really comforted me. They were more worried about me than the score."

She added: "I know it was a complete accident and I was just very unlucky, as was Tim. Tim has said sorry but I had already forgiven him because I know he did not mean the ball to hit me. There are no hard feelings."

Shaken and contrite, Henman said after the match it was an



VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE - Wimbledon ballgirl Caroline Hall who was hit in the head by a ball by British player Tim Henman yesterday.

accident, but admitted he had to be responsible for his actions.

"It's like being in a car and fiddling with the radio when someone comes out on a cross-

ing. You are responsible. As soon as the ball hit her I had an idea I might be defaulted."

John Curry, chairman of the All England Club, said: "It was

obviously an accident but the rules are very clear. If you hit an official, accidentally or otherwise, it is disqualification. Rules are rules."

Weary Cork pulled from Derbyshire's county match

LONDON (Reuters) - Dominic Cork, the star of England's second Test victory over West Indies at Lord's on Monday, was pulled out of Derbyshire's county championship match against Hampshire at Derby yesterday.

His county decided to rest him but they say there is no question of Cork missing the third Test at Edgbaston next week.

Cork admitted he was tired after his bowling heroics at Lord's and said: "I was very sore and tired on Wednesday and it was decided it made sense for me not to play in this game."

"I've got a bit of a cold and I'm probably a bit run down with the hype of the Test match."

Cork watched deposed England pair Devon Malcolm and Phil DeFreitas take five wickets between them for Derbyshire as

Hampshire was bowled out for 284.

Robin Smith, the other hero of England's victory, made only 20 before he was bowled by Colin Wells and it was John Stephenson who held Hampshire together with 93 - his highest score for the county.

Mark Ramprakash, who was out twice without scoring in the Test, had better luck as he returned to Lord's for Middlesex. Desperately needing a big innings to impress the selectors, he made 185 not out against Surrey.

He hit 32 boundaries as Middlesex reached 356 for four. Paul Weekes, who came on as substitute and took two catches in the Test, weighed in with 62 and shared a second-wicket stand of 104 with Ramprakash.

Australian Michael Bevan hit

102 and David Byas 108 as they shared a third-wicket stand of 190 for Yorkshire against Gloucestershire at Middleborough.

But Javagal Srinath hit back for the visitors to take six for 63, Yorkshire losing their last seven wickets for 75 to finish on 340.

Glamorgan skipper Hugh Morris led from the front with a superb century against Durham. Swansea but then saw his side suffer from a late batting collapse.

They lost four wickets for 48 runs to finish on 310 for eight after Morris had hit 106 - the 41st century of his career.

Opener Mark Lathwell hammered a glorious century - hitting 92 of his 110 runs in boundaries - to put Somerset in a strong position at 320 for eight against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

South African people united in admiration for Springboks

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - South Africa's world championship rugby team proved something to the nation yesterday: everybody loves a winner.

The Springboks paraded through downtown Johannesburg to celebrate victory in the rugby World Cup, cheered by thousands of blacks and whites long separated by apartheid but now united behind their rugby team.

White teenagers belted out *Shosholaza*, a Zulu work song adopted this year as the team anthem. Black office workers traded game highlights, praising the South African defense for shutting down New Zealand in the World Cup final last Saturday.

A matronly Afrikaner woman set a boom box at her feet and cranked up the fight song *Hier Kom die Bokke - Here Come the Boks* - done to the tune of *La Cucaracha*.

"Viva die Bokke," she shouted as blacks and whites bounced happily around her in an impromptu conga line.

"Each and every body wanted to see the players face-to-face," said Jowel Chiduma. Chiduma, a black salesman, marveled at the ease at which he

had struck up a conversation with white teacher Riku Latti as the two waited for their heroes to pass by.

Sure, South Africa has had large and multiracial gatherings - political rallies and union marches. But Wednesday was different, Latti said.

"People never came together before just to be happy," he said.

Nelson Mandela has embraced the winning rugby team as a symbol of the national unity he has preached since historic elections last April ended white minority rule.

The shift is momentous, since the Springboks were once seen as a symbol of white supremacy and blacks, including Mandela, used to regularly cheer their opponents.

Mandela made a convert of Jeffrey Shange, a black army sergeant and soccer fan who said he watched his first rugby game last Saturday.

South Africa beat New Zealand 15-12, and Shange said the anxiety of watching a close game was heightened by not quite knowing what was happening on the field.

Bittersweet celebration held for Devils

EAST RUTHERFORD (Reuters) - A small but enthusiastic crowd turned out on Wednesday to cheer the New Jersey Devils and to "boo" management for threatening to move the newly-crowned Stanley Cup champions to Nashville, Tennessee.

A Devils' spokeswoman estimated the crowd at 25,000 but a New Jersey State Trooper and others said closer to 12,000 fans made their way to the parking lot at the Meadowlands Arena, home of the Devils and where on Saturday they won their first Cup since moving here in 1982.

Each Devils' player was introduced to cheers, especially Playoff MVP Claude Lemieux, team captain Scott Stevens, goalie Martin Brodeur and right wing John MacLean.

The Devils, after finishing the regular season with only the ninth best record in the National Hockey League, beat the heavily-favored Detroit Red Wings in four games.

MacLean, who joined the Devils for their second season in New Jersey said: "We won the Cup for New Jersey and we would like to stay here. But the fans should know that no matter what happens, it will read 1994-95 - New Jersey Devils on the Stanley Cup."

Lemieux said the players "have mixed feelings right now about Nashville. We have no control

over it and just want the fans in New Jersey to know we won the Cup for them."

Team president Lou Lamonio was roundly booed when he was introduced. But he managed to win the crowd over by pointing to a banner held by backup goalie Chris Terreri which proclaimed, "Nashville? No Way."

"We played in Boston, we played in Pittsburgh, we played in Philadelphia and we played in Detroit," he said. "But you fans here in New Jersey are the best."

"We are going to do everything possible to make what that sign says come true," Lamonio said.

John McMullen, the team's owner, who is insisting on a new contract with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority that would include more luxury box seats at the arena, participated in the motorcade, but was not introduced from the platform.

The Devils on Tuesday told the Sports Authority that they were terminating their lease as of July 6 because the Sports Authority owed the team \$11 million in revenues from concession and ticket sales and other sources.

The Sports Authority countered within hours by seeking a court order restraining the Devils from terminating the lease and moving to Nashville, which has made a lucrative offer in a bid to lure the team south, including up to a \$20 million bonus payment, a

new arena and 120 luxury boxes. The Devils' current arena has 29 luxury boxes.

"Tonight was a very emotional experience," McMullen said after the celebration. "The crowd, in particular the young people, made me very happy."

Asked about the possibility of moving to Nashville, McMullen said, "I'd like to forget it, but the fact is I have a fiscal responsibility."

McMullen said he would like to stay in New Jersey and that the situation could still "be straightened out but the time is now."

Fans carried numerous banners praising the players and deriding Nashville. One said, "Stay, Stay, Stay. Bettman is weak, McMullen is Greed."

Bettman is NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman who has indicated that perhaps nine professional sports franchises and three National Hockey League teams are too many for the New York area.

New Jersey Governor Christie Todd Whitman, who had asked the Devils to organize a statewide whistle stop train tour, and was turned down by them, said: "In the last few days everyone has covered themselves with legal moves. We had no choice but to go to court."

"We still hope that real progress towards solving this can be made in negotiations which are under way."

Strawberry finally finding famous batting groove

KISSIMMEE, Florida (AP) - After going hitless in his first four at-bats with a New York Yankees rookie league team, Darryl Strawberry appears to be finding his batting stroke.

Strawberry, on a comeback from 60-day suspension for drug abuse, doubled twice, walked and singled in a doubleheader against a Houston Astros Gulf Coast League team on Wednesday.

Gulf Coast Astros reliever Mark Sacharko, 19, caught Strawberry looking at a 69 mph curve ball in the third inning. Strawberry, who went 0-for-3 with a walk in Tuesday's game in Lakeland, finally got his first hit, doubling down the right-field line against Sacharko in the third.

In the second game, the former New York Mets star grounded out in the first inning. But he later hit a double just inside the first-base line, walked and hit a run-scoring single to right.

Gulf Coast Yankees Manager Hector Lopez said the 33-year-old Strawberry is beginning to fit in.

"He's seeing the ball a lot better," Lopez said. "I like to see him in the field. He gets into the game. He's just as excited as the kids are."

Former major league manager Dick Williams, now a Yankees special assignment scout overseeing Strawberry's progress, said the troubled outfielder probably will not be called up to New York until after the July 11 All-Star Game in Arlington, Texas.

Among the handful of fans seeking Strawberry's autograph after the games was Orlando Magic general manager Pat Williams. With Wednesday's NBA draft only hours away, Williams stopped by to have Strawberry sign a book on baseball's greatest stars.

"I know there's a lot of criticism, but I'm rooting for him," Williams said. "We serve a God of second chances."

Blackhawks name new coach

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Blackhawks announced yesterday that former defenseman Craig Hartsburg has been hired as the team's coach.

"He's a leader, he's well-respected and he's well-organized," general manager Bob Furlong said.

Hartsburg, 36, decided to pursue a coaching career after 10 seasons with the Minnesota North Stars.

"It's ironic," he said. "Ten years ago in old Chicago Stadium, the team I probably hated the most was the Chicago Blackhawks when I played for Minnesota."

Hartsburg succeeds Darryl Sutter, who resigned last week to spend more time with his family. Sutter guided the Blackhawks to the Western Conference finals but was criticized for being too intense.

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'Qatar coup won't alter relations with Israel'

HILLEL KUTTLER

QATAR'S relations with Israel will not be adversely affected by this week's change in the emirate's regime, a senior Gulf official said yesterday.

It is even likely to expand due to the commitment to the peace process of the new emir, Hamad bin Khalifa Thani, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr Thani, he said.

Qatar also prefers that the Rabin government stay in power and believes ties with Israel could slide should the Likud win the next election, he said.

"I think, provided the peace process goes forward, it will improve," the official said. "That is very important to realize because the foreign minister is important in the [policy toward] the peace process. You might see [Foreign Minister Shimon] Peres in Qatar in the not-too-distant future. I think it has more chance of happening because it's a more clear foreign policy."

Qatar's foreign minister "will have much more of a chance of

forming bilateral relations with Israel provided the peace process moves," the official said. "Frankly, it's in our interest to see the peace process move forward. We really, genuinely believe we have to chip in for the peace process - strengthening Rabin and Peres is more likely to help peace and to encourage the Israelis to go further with the Syrians."

But the evolving relations would be compromised should Israeli-Syrian talks deadlock, the official said.

"It will definitely not help. If the Likud delivers what they promise - no withdrawal from the Golan - the Syrians would leave [the negotiations] and that would break the comprehensiveness of the peace process." He added that "if there are more withdrawals from Gaza and the West Bank, that would definitely help."

"What will spoil it is a breakdown in the peace process," he said.

LEAK

(Continued from Page 1)

dealing with the Golan, the official added. He confirmed it was authored by IDF deputy head of strategic planning, Zvika Stambor, who also participated in the talks with Syria.

Earlier in the day, US President Clinton hosted a White House meeting with Shabak and Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat Shihabi following their two days of negotiations.

Clinton re-emphasized to the two sides that he is deeply involved in the process and is prepared to send Secretary of State Warren Christopher back to the region as necessary. But he gave no indication he himself would be traveling to the Middle East.

Clinton told them of "the importance of the US places in the process and how much he would invest in the process," a source said. He then asked the chiefs of staff to summarize their talks.

As Israeli source called Shihabi's presentation "positive" and said he believed Shihabi is "someone you can speak with... not a sphinx cut off from his surroundings."

But he also said Shihabi took a "very hard" line and at the mo-

ment Israel found "very little flexibility" in Damascus' position.

The White House meeting was attended by Christopher, US National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and the American peace process team.

Shabak told Israeli reporters that gaps remain "very large" and "no issue" has been agreed on yet with Syria.

Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich characterized the talks here as "the start of a dialogue" with Damascus that was a "necessary condition to move to the next stage... when there must be elements of give-and-take."

But the Israeli officials said formal word still needs to come from Syrian President Hafez Assad that talks between military officials will resume here next month.

They think that will come after Shihabi updates Assad on this week's meetings.

Both Shabak and Rabinovich told Israeli reporters the talks advanced here, because each side made its case for security arrangements it requires - and now better understands their counterpart's position.

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Edberg ousted by little-known Belgian

Agassi crushes McEnroe, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Stefan Edberg tumbled to another early Grand Slam defeat yesterday, while Andre Agassi soared to another lopsided victory.

Edberg, a former two-time Wimbledon champion, continued his slide by losing in straight sets to an unheralded Belgian ranked No. 176 in the world.

Dick Norman, a lucky loser playing in his first Grand Slam tournament, overwhelmed the 13th-seeded Swede, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, in a second-round match.

Norman, the tallest player in the draw at 6-foot-8, used his height and reach to keep Edberg on the defensive throughout the 1 hour, 48-minute match.

"He's like a giant," Edberg said. "It's like David and Goliath. He served me off the court, and that's it."

Edberg's dismal performance contrasted with the clinic put on by the top-seeded Agassi, who dismantled Patrick McEnroe 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, in just 94 minutes on Center Court.

In four career matches against McEnroe, Agassi has won all in straight sets.

With girlfriend Brooke Shields and buddy Wayne Gretzky looking on from the players' box, Agassi ripped service return winners at will as he made McEnroe look helpless. Agassi's form was as sizzling as the 38.9 degrees on-court temperature.

"I'm seeing the ball really clean, picking it up quick, and I'm very confident," said Agassi, who lost only five games in his first-round match. "Every time, I swing at the ball I feel I'm going to make it."

After McEnroe held serve to open the match, Agassi won 11 straight games to win the first set and go up 5-0 in the second. He finished the second set with an ace, then cruised through the third set.

After closing out the match with a cross-court forehand pass, Agassi bowed and held up his racket to salute the crowd.

Agassi should have a stiffer test in the next round when he faces grass-court specialist David Wheaton, who beat him at Wimbledon in 1991 en route to the

semifinals.

The women's top seed, five-time champion Steffi Graf, struggled in the second set before completing a 6-3, 7-5 win over Amanda Coetzer to extend her 1995 record to 27-0. Graf has now beaten Coetzer in straight sets in all six of their career meetings.

Graf wavered at 5-2 in the second set, when she blew three match points and proceeded to lose three games in a row for 5-5. Graf then held for 6-5 and broke for the match in the next game.

Graf said she was not bothered by the chronic back condition and recent wrist problems which forced her to pull out of the doubles with Martina Navratilova.

Three-time champion Boris Becker, the No. 3 seed, won 11 straight points during one stretch of the fourth set of a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, win over Swedish doubles specialist Jan Apell.

Jim Courier, the 11th seed who has been in a slump for most of the year, looked listless as he was ousted in straight sets by Cedric Pioline of France, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Another seed to fall was No. 15 Andrei Medvedev, a clay-court expert who lost to Jeff Tarango, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Unseeded Mats Wilander, playing here for the first time since 1989, rallied from two sets down to outlast Marc Goellner, 4-6, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

In women's matches, fourth-seeded Jana Novotna swept to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over 34-year-old British player Jo Durie, who left Center Court to a standing ovation from the crowd after her final Wimbledon singles match.

Seventh-seeded Lindsay Davenport overpowered Argentina's Florencia Labat, 6-1, 6-1; No. 6 Kimiko Date edged Meike Babel, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4); No. 10 Natasha Zvereva rallied for a 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-4, win over Lindsay Lee; No. 13 Mary Joe Fernandez defeated Sung-Hee Park of South Korea, 6-4, 6-0; and Yonko Kamio of Japan ousted No. 16 Helena Sukova, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

TORONTO (AP) — The National Basketball Association draft belonged to the young, even more than usual.

The first five selections Wednesday night were players younger than 21, including four who left school after their sophomore years and one straight out of high school. Professional basketball teams restock their rosters through the draft because the NBA doesn't have a vast minor league system as Major League Baseball does.

The Golden State Warriors made Joe Smith, a 6-foot-10 forward from Maryland with silky inside moves, the first pick. The Los Angeles Clippers followed with another forward, Antonio McDyess, a player largely unnoticed during his two years at Alabama until his strong postseason.

Later, the Clippers traded the rights to McDyess along with Randy Woods to Denver for the 15th pick, Brent Barry of Oregon State, and forward Rodney Rogers.

With NBA commissioner David Stern announcing the selections for the first NBA draft held outside the US, Philadelphia used the third choice to take North Carolina's Jerry Stackhouse, a forward expected to play shooting guard for the 76ers.

The fourth selection belonged to Washington, which went for another sophomore Tar Heel — Rasheed Wallace, a center-forward who shot 65 percent from the field.

Minnesota went fifth, producing the biggest question mark of the draft, Chicago high schooler Kevin Garnett. The rail-thin forward is only the fourth high school player ever selected in the

NBA draft.

McDyess, Stackhouse and Wallace are 20, and Smith will be 20 next month. Garnett is only 19.

Not until the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies took Bryant Reeves, the best true center of the draft, at No. 6 was a four-year player selected.

The NBA's other new franchise, the Toronto Raptors, made Arizona point guard Damon Stoudamire a surprise seventh choice. The Raptors already had a point guard, former Chicago Bull B.J. Armstrong, from the expansion draft, but general manager Isiah Thomas said Armstrong would be traded.

The selection of Stoudamire drew a mixed reaction from the crowd of 21,268 fans in the SkyDome.

Smith became the third sophomore selected No. 1 overall, following Magic Johnson in 1979 and Chris Webber in 1993. Smith also was the first No. 1 pick from Maryland since John Lucas, selected by Houston in 1976.

In Oakland Coliseum Arena, about 2,000 fans cheered wildly when Smith's name was announced.

Last year with the Terrapins, Smith averaged 20.8 points, 10.6 rebounds and 2.9 blocks a game. For the Warriors, he fills a void up front left by the departure of Webber, top pick of the 1993 draft who was traded to Washington early last season after a dispute with former Golden State coach Don Nelson.

Portland, which had traded with Detroit to get the eighth pick, took shooting guard Shawn Respert of Michigan State. The Trail Blazers traded his rights to

Milwaukee for 11th selection Gary Trent of Ohio, and a 1996 first-round pick.

New Jersey followed with UCLA forward Ed O'Bannon at No. 9, and Miami took Texas Christian power forward Kurt Thomas at No. 10.

The 12th pick went to Dallas, which selected Duke center Cherokee Parks. Sacramento selected Arkansas forward Corliss Williamson 13th, and Boston

chose Eric Williams of Providence with the 14th pick.

The Atlantic Coast Conference had 10 players drafted, including a record eight in the first round.

The New York Knicks had no draft pick, and the Los Angeles Lakers and Houston Rockets had only second-round picks, No. 37 and 41 respectively.

The four-hour draft ended with Detroit's selection of Georgetown's Don Reid, the 58th pick.

First Round
1. Golden State, Joe Smith, 1. Maryland, 2. L.A. Clippers, Antonio McDyess, 3. Philadelphia, Jerry Stackhouse, 4. North Carolina, 4. Washington, (Chicago) HS, 6. Vancouver, Bryant Reeves, 7. Toronto, Damon Stoudamire, 8. Arizona, 8. Portland, Shawn Respert, 9. Michigan State, 9. New Jersey, Ed O'Bannon, 1. UCLA.
10. Miami, Kurt Thomas, 1. Texas Christian, 11. Milwaukee, Gary Trent, 1. Ohio State, 12. Dallas, Cherokee Parks, 1. Duke, 13. Sacramento, Corliss Williamson, 14. Boston, Eric Williams, 1. Providence, 15. Denver, Brent Barry, 16. Atlanta, Alan Henderson, 1. Indiana, 17. Cleveland, Bob Sura, 18. Detroit, (from Portland), Randolph Childress, 9. Wake Forest, 20. Chicago, Jason Caffey, 1. Alabama, 21. Phoenix, (from L.A. Lakers), Michael Finley, 1. Wisconsin, 22. Charlotte, George Zidek, 2. UCLA, 23. Indiana, Travis Best, 24. Dallas, (from New York), Loren Meyer, 1. Iowa State, 25. Orlando, David Vaughn, 1. Memphis, 26. Seattle, Sherell Ford, 1. Illinois State, 27. Phoenix, Mario Bennett, 1. Arizona State, 28. Utah, Greg Oetzing, 29. Kansas, 29. San Antonio, Cory Alexander, 3. Virginia.

Second Round
30. Detroit, (from L.A. Clippers), Lou Roe, 31. Massachusetts, 31. Chicago, (from Minnesota), Dragan Tarlac, 1. Greece, 32. Washington, Terrence Hanchar, 3. Texas, 33. Boston, (from Philadelphia through Utah), Junior Burroughs, 1. Virginia, 34. Golden State, Andrew DeClercq, 1. Florida, 35. Toronto, Jimmy King, 1. Michigan, 36. Vancouver, Lawrence Moten, 3. Syracuse, 37. L.A. Lakers, (from Detroit through Washington), Frankie King, 3. Western Carolina, 38. Milwaukee, (from New Jersey through Orlando), Rashard Griffith, 3. Wisconsin, 39. Cleveland, (from Miami), Dorey Marshall, 1. Connecticut.
40. Golden State, (from Milwaukee through L.A. Lakers), Dwayne Whitfield, 1. Jackson State, 41. Houston, (from Dallas), Erik Meek, 3. Duke, 42. Atlanta, (from Sacramento), Donnie Boyce, 3. Colorado, 43. Milwaukee, (from Boston), Eric Snow, 44. Denver, Anthony Pelle, 3. Fresno State, 45. Atlanta, Tracy Brown, 1. Providence, 46. Miami, (from Cleveland), George Banks, 1. Texas El-Paso, 47. Sacramento, (from Portland through Golden State), Tyus Edney, 3. UCLA, 48. Minnesota, (from Chicago), Mark Davis, 1. Texas Tech, 49. Minnesota, (from Houston), Jerome Allen, 3. Pennsylvania.
50. Golden State, (from L.A. Lakers through Seattle), Martin Lewis, 1. Seward County Community College, 51. Sacramento, (from Charlotte), Dejan Bodiroga, 1. Italy, 52. Indiana, Fred Holberg, 3. Iowa State, 53. L.A. Clippers, (from New York), Constantin Popa, 3. Miami, 54. Seattle, Euralles Zukauskas, 1. Lithuania, 55. Golden State, (from Orlando through Seattle), Michael McDonald, 1. New Hampshire, 56. Phoenix, Chris Carr, 3. Southern Illinois, 57. Atlanta, (from Utah), Cuonzo Martin, 1. Purdue, 58. Detroit, (from San Antonio through Houston and Portland), Don Reid, 1. Georgetown.

Expos suffer wrath of Justice as Braves win in 9th

ATLANTA (AP) — David Justice hit a two-run homer with no outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Atlanta Braves a 4-3 victory over the Montreal Expos on Wednesday.

Fred McGriff walked to open the inning before Justice hit his seventh home run of the season off Mel Rojas (1-2). For Rojas, who relieved Pedro Martinez in the eighth, it was his fourth blown save in 16 chances.

Brad Clontz (1-1), who relieved in the eighth, earned his first major league victory.

Martinez allowed two runs and three hits in seven innings, walked three and struck out five. He also drove in his second run of the season with a sacrifice fly in the sixth to give the Expos a 3-1 lead.

Reds 1, Phillies 0
Rookie left-hander C.J. Nitkowski held Philadelphia to three hits in seven innings to earn his first major league victory as visiting Cincinnati got an unearned run to edge Philadelphia.

Nitkowski (1-1), making his fourth start, struck out four and did not walk a batter, although he hit two. No Phillies runner advanced past second. Jeff Brantley came on in the eighth and got his 12th save.

Curt Schilling (5-3) took the loss despite giving up only four hits in eight innings, striking out nine and walking none.

The game's lone run scored in the fourth when, with one out, Thomas Howard singled. Schilling's pickoff attempt got by first baseman Dave Hollins, and when Howard raced to third, Hollins threw wildly, allowing Howard to score.

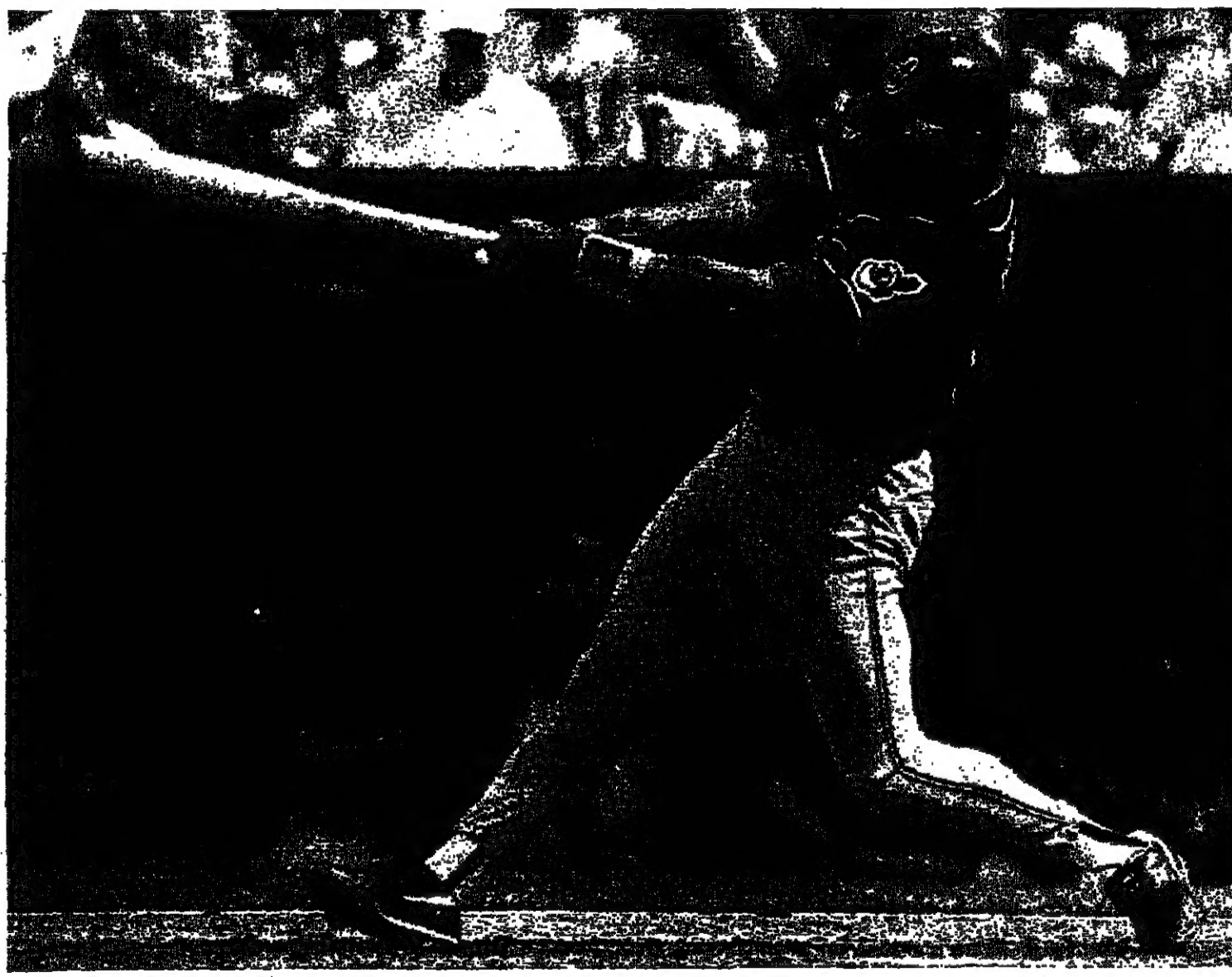
Hollins was charged with two errors on the play.

Giants 2, Rockies 1 (11)
J.R. Phillips slapped a two-out single down the third base line to score Robby Thompson in the bottom of the 11th, ending as the host Giants broke a five-game losing streak.

Thompson started the winning rally with a two-out walk off losing pitcher Mike Munoz (1-3) and Barry Bonds followed with a sharp single to right. Phillips, who entered the game in the 10th inning and was batting only .126, sliced a 1-1 pitch down the left field line to easily score Thompson.

Shawn Barton (1-0), who came on in the 11th with the bases loaded to get the final out, got the win, his first National League decision.

The Rockies loaded the bases in both the 10th and 11th innings, yet



EASY AS 1-2-3 — Eddie Murray earns his 2,997th hit, a two-run homer, leaving him three hits short of the 3,000 mark. (Renter)

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Indians 5, Royals 2
Eddie Murray hit a two-run home run to move within three hits of 3,000 for his career as the Cleveland Indians beat the Royals for their first sweep in Kansas City since 1981.
Jim Thome also hit a two-run homer as the Indians beat Kansas City ace Kevin Appier for the second time this season, ending Appier's five-game winning streak. Cleveland has scored the most runs of any team off Appier, getting six in a May 8 victory to give Appier (11-3) two of his three losses. The Royals have lost four in a row for the second time this season.
Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 4
David Cone struck out 11, Paul Molitor hit his 200th career home run and the Toronto Blue Jays ended an eight-game losing streak.
WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Atlanta 4, Montreal 3
Chicago 10, Pittsburgh 3
Houston 9, St. Louis 0
San Francisco 2, Colorado 1 (11)
New York 8, Florida 3
Cincinnati 1, Philadelphia 0
San Diego 8, Los Angeles 2
WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Detroit 8, New York 4
Chicago 4, Minnesota 3
Baltimore 4, Milwaukee 2
Cleveland 5, Kansas City 2
Toronto 6, Boston 4
Texas 9, California 5
Oakland 7, Seattle 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE					AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division					East Division				
Philadelphia	W	L	Pct.	GB	Boston	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	37	29	.562	—	Detroit	33	24	.578	—
Montreal	34	24	.588	8.5	New York	29	30	.483	5
New York	29	30	.492	9	Baltimore	26	30	.464	6.5
Pittsburgh	22	37	.373	16	Toronto	25	31	.445	7
St. Louis	20	38	.347	18.5		21	34	.382	11
Central Division					Central Division				
Cincinnati	W	L	Pct.	GB	Cleveland	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	36	21	.632	—	Kansas City	30	25	.545	6.5
Chicago	31	26	.544	5	Milwaukee	25	31	.448	14
St. Louis	28	28	.500	7.5	Minnesota	24	31	.438	14.5
San Francisco	23	33	.411	12.5		17	40	.298	22.5
St. Louis	23	33	.411	12.5					
West Division					West Division				
Colorado	W	L	Pct.	GB	Texas	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	31	27	.534	—	California	33	25	.569	—
San Diego	30	28	.517	1	Oakland	32	27	.542	2.5
San Francisco	29	30	.492	2.5	Seattle	29	29	.500	5

Arch-enemies on course for basketball final

ATHENS (Reuters) — Yugoslavia, returning to international competition after a three-year ban, remains on course to meet its sworn enemy Croatia in the final of the European basketball championship this Sunday.

Both teams have recorded perfect records in the preliminary rounds, raising expectations of a star-studded final with a taste of the NBA. "There is going to be some tension if we meet but it will not be like Mike Tyson punching it out with somebody else. Politics should stay out of sports," Yugoslav captain Zarko Paspalj said.

The Yugoslavs face France in today's quarter-finals and the odds are they will have little trouble advancing to the semis although their coach Dusan Ivkovic has reservations.

"Congratulations to my players for qualifying but our crucial games begin now," he said. "France has a strong team and although we are considered favorites everything is possible in sports."

Yugoslavia will rely on the board power of explosive Los Angeles Lakers center Vlade Divac and the long-range accuracy of Arjjan Komazec of the Phoenix Suns.

Croatia, which meets Italy, will depend on the talent and strength of Toni Kukoc, who plays for the Chicago Bulls, and Dino Radja of the Boston Celtics.

"We can handle Italy. They are good but we can handle them," said Croat coach Aleksandar Petrovic. "If both us and Yugoslavia remain unbeaten and reach the final it will be a rare, difficult game but I think we can handle them too."

Olympic bronze medalist Lithuania will have Seattle SuperSonics guard Sarunas Marciulionis and towering pivot Arvydas Sabonis in their side when they cross swords with former Soviet compatriots Russia in the third quarter-final.

The last quarter-final features host Greece against Spain.

Foreman gives up IBF title over mandate to refight Schulz

LAS VEGAS (AP) — George Foreman has given up the last of his heavyweight titles rather than accept a mandate by the IBF that he fight a rematch with Germany's Axel Schulz, promoter Bob Arum said.

Foreman, the oldest heavyweight champion in history, will fight only once more, probably against Michael Moorer either late this year or early next year, Arum said.

Arum had faced a July 3 deadline from the IBF to get an agreement on a rematch with Schulz, who lost a disputed decision April 22 in Las Vegas to the 47-year-old Foreman.

Foreman, who could not immediately be reached for comment, won both the IBF and WBA versions of the heavyweight title last November when he knocked out Moorer in the 10th round of their title fight.

The WBA earlier stripped Foreman of its title because he did not defend against the top contender at the time, Tony Tucker. Its champion is now Bruce Seldon.

The IBF's executive committee ordered a Foreman-Schulz rematch because it said their first fight was so close.

Jordan, Ewing file suit against league

NEW YORK (AP) — Instead of trying to negotiate a new labor contract, Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing and five other players have filed an antitrust suit against the National Basketball Association in federal court in Minneapolis.

The 27-page class action filed Wednesday claims the salary cap and draft are illegal because the previous labor contract expired and the union no longer represents a majority of players. The suit named the league and all 29 teams as defendants.

Jordan and Ewing also are part of a group trying to decertify the union, whose leaders reached a

tentative agreement on a six-year labor deal with the league last week. Jeffrey Kessler, a lawyer for the dissidents, said about 180 decertification notices were delivered Wednesday to the league and the players association.

"The salary cap system is a league-wide price-fixing agreement among competitors to restrict the wages of all NBA players," the suit said.

The draft, according to the suit, is enforced by "group boycott" consisting of a "concerted refusal to deal with potential NBA players except through restrictive anticompetitive practices."

LOCAL SCENE

A fading Bloom

It could have been his steady descent to number 307 in the world, or his new fourth place in the local lists or just as he says, "being sick of airports and hotels," but whatever it is, Gild Bloom's decision to quit tennis at the year's end certainly didn't floor the tennis pundits.

But the 28-year-old, who amassed \$750,000 in prize money and was ranked 61 in 1990, will not disappear entirely from his Ramat Hasharon fans and their memories of his historic Davis Cup appearances — he's turning his racket towards coaching.

Heather Chait

Olympic recognition for Rabin

On the shelf next to his Nobel Peace Prize, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will have to clear a space next month for a trophy from the Israel Olympic Committee for his groundbreaking results in the sports following his peace efforts.

Heather Chait

Bath for Israel's youth

Twenty Israelis will compete for the first time in next week's European Youth Olympics in Bath, England against 45 other nations in the categories of track, swimming, tennis, gymnastics and judo.

Heather Chait

Another record for Dreiger

A daughter, Si ("record"), was born to champion basketball player Anat Dreiger and Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, director of National Council for the Child.

Heather Chait

Haifa's \$50 handout

Don't go begging in Haifa is what 800m champion Yaniv Vaknin discovered while checking out avenues to finance his trip to Europe to run in international meets. When Haifa municipality rose to the meager sum of \$50, Vaknin's sponsor, Pinhas Naricis, stepped in to cover the 99.99% outstanding amount.

Heather Chait

Fifth place for Shani

Maya Shani ended up fifth place in an international gymnastics meet in Hungary alongside teams from Romania, Ukraine, Hungary and Israel. Top honors were collected by Romania's Hapoel Games winner Alexandra Marinascu with 77.4 points against Shani's 76.65.

Heather Chait

Intertoto continues

Israel's two contenders in the Intertoto Cup are back in action tomorrow. Both Hapoel Petah Tikva and Bnei Jerusalem marked an inauspicious start to the competition last weekend.

Hapoel was given a 4-0 drubbing away at Turkish side Glenclerbirliigi, while the Betarists lost 1-0 at home to Glenclerbirliigi.

The Petah Tikvans have the advantage of home soil, playing Malta's Floriana, in Petah Tikva (kick-off 5:30 pm). Betar has a much tougher prospect in store as it travels to Turkey to play Group 10 leader Bursaspor. The spirited Turks humbled Wimbledon with a 4-0 victory in last weekend's opening match.

Derek Faust

Police finally catch up with bank robbers

RAINE MARCUS

BANK robberies continued in Tel Aviv yesterday, but police caught three suspects less than an hour after they allegedly fled with over NIS 11,000 from a Yad Elyahu branch of Discount Bank.

At around 11:30 a.m., a man armed with a gun went into the bank and demanded the teller hand over money. He filled up a plastic bag with NIS 11,200 before fleeing on a moped parked outside.

A couple of kilometers down the road, he abandoned the moped and got into a waiting car, with two men inside. The alleged robber got into the back seat, still clutching his helmet, money and pistol.

The three drove to Jaffa, where one of them got out of the car. The remaining two continued driving through Jaffa, but were then ambushed by detectives and Jaffa police who had followed them.

Police recovered the bank's money and found the pistol and robber's helmet. Police said the alleged robber is an 18-year-old Kfar Shalem resident, while his two accomplices are 25-year-olds from Petah Tikva.

Meanwhile, a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court judge banned publication of the photo of 31-year-old alleged bank robber Yosef Ashkenazi,

pending a line-up. Ashkenazi, suspected of robbing a Jaffa bank three days ago, was remanded by the court yesterday until Sunday.

On Wednesday, detectives arrested a 24-year-old Bat Yam resident suspected of making nuisance phone calls to police to report on fictitious robberies. The man also allegedly phoned police to report on a non-existent robbery on a Tel Aviv branch of Bank Hapoalim on Wednesday.

"This man also risked the lives of policemen who rushed to the scene of non-existent robberies, expecting to find armed robbers," said police. Robbers who tried to hold up the Bank Leumi branch in Haifa's Migdal Hanevi'im center yesterday lost their nerve. They gave the woman teller a note saying they were robbers but her delay in getting out the money they demanded proved too much for them.

The would-be robbers, apparently afraid of being caught in the act, took to their heels and fled, this time without any money. Police searched the area, but by last night no suspects had been arrested.

David Rudge contributed to this report.



Charles "Corky" Goodman, newly elected chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, receives the gavel from his predecessor, Mendel Kaplan, at the close of the Agency's assembly in Jerusalem. Paul Berger (r), chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, looks on. (Joe Malcolm)

Clan rivalry turns pre-nuptial event into brawl

DAVID RUDGE

SEVEN people were injured, two critically, when hooligans attacked a convoy of cars taking a bride and groom-to-be through the streets of Deir Hanna village in the Galilee as part of a traditional wedding-eve custom.

According to relatives of the family, the attack late Wednesday night was perpetrated by members of a rival family clan in the village over a long-standing

dispute relating to municipal elections.

Police arrested five people in connection with the incident.

The police remained on duty in the village to prevent any further unrest.

Hizbullah keeps on firing despite US talks

DAVID RUDGE

FIGHTING continued in the security zone yesterday, despite the ongoing talks between the chiefs of staff of Israel and Syria in Washington.

Hizbullah gunmen fired dozens of mortar and missile rounds at IDF and South Lebanese Army positions near Tibnit, Dabsha and Ishiyeh villages inside the zone.

There were no casualties in the attacks and IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Hizbullah also launched a long-range attack on IDF and SLA positions in the Sarasheet region, in the western sector of the zone, early yesterday morning, but again without inflicting any casualties.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that Lebanon had dropped its demand that Israel withdraw to the international border before beginning peace negotiations.

The report, quoting information that had been received in Jerusalem from Washington, said the Lebanese were in constant contact with American officials in preparation for separate negotiations with Israel.

WEATHER

City	Temp	Wind	Clouds
Tel Aviv	22-28	10-15	Partly cloudy
Jerusalem	18-24	5-10	Partly cloudy
Beersheva	18-22	5-10	Partly cloudy
Haifa	22-28	10-15	Partly cloudy
Tiberias	22-28	10-15	Partly cloudy
Akko	22-28	10-15	Partly cloudy
Samarit	18-24	5-10	Partly cloudy
Elaf	26-40	10-15	Partly cloudy

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, drop in temperatures.
Shabbat: No change.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Wind	Clouds
Amsterdam	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Berlin	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Brussels	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Geneva	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
London	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Madrid	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Moscow	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
New York	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Paris	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Rome	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Tokyo	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Warsaw	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy
Zurich	12-18	10-15	Partly cloudy

Bnei Brak's municipal staff returns to work

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Bnei Brak municipal workers' work committees yesterday announced a return to regular work, with laborers returning as of this morning and clerks as of Sunday morning. All municipality offices will be reopen to the public at that time.

Municipality Spokesman Avraham Tannenbaum announced that the strike had lasted 50 days, which followed the municipality's failure to pay April salaries. May and June salaries were subsequently not paid, either.

Amos Mar-Haim, chairman of the

appointed municipality selected by Acting Interior Minister David Liba'i, told the workers representatives that the Interior and Finance ministries were transferring NIS 36 million to pay the salaries. Although the money had not yet entered the workers' bank accounts by yesterday morning, they agreed to go back to work as a sign of good faith.

Bnei Brak residents were asked to reopen garbage rooms, and merchants were told not to put out carts and containers in the street unless these items are tied up, and only between 9 and 10 a.m.

Money changer attacked with hatchet in Eilat

A MONEY CHANGER was seriously wounded last night in Eilat after being hit on the head with a hatchet. Police said the money changer would not give

them any details about the attack, but they believe it involved an attempted robbery. He was taken by helicopter to Beersheva's Soroka Hospital. (Itm)

Winning cards & numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, 10 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 026742 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 163524 won a car. Tickets numbered 406565, 365501, 893758, 104592, 288228, 525131, 223054 and 458135 won

NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 93724, 68392, 64863, 41106, 27820, 15090, 40364, 95643, 29197, 88379, 64368, 26027, 94652, 79745, 66398 97545, 01662, 68550 and 68935 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 097, 174, 525, 528, and 194 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 35, 25, 82, 27 and 74 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 4 and 6 won NIS 8.

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Disney pays \$19 b in Cap Cities/ABC

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The Disney Co. said yesterday it had agreed to pay \$19 billion for Capital Cities/ABC Inc., surprising both Wall Street and the world's entertainment company.

Disney Chairman Michael Eisner said Capital Cities/ABC television and radio networks will become a new unit of Disney.

Eisner told a news conference that Disney's cable channel ESPN sports channel will be a service to be beamed to Europe and India.

Full story, Page 8